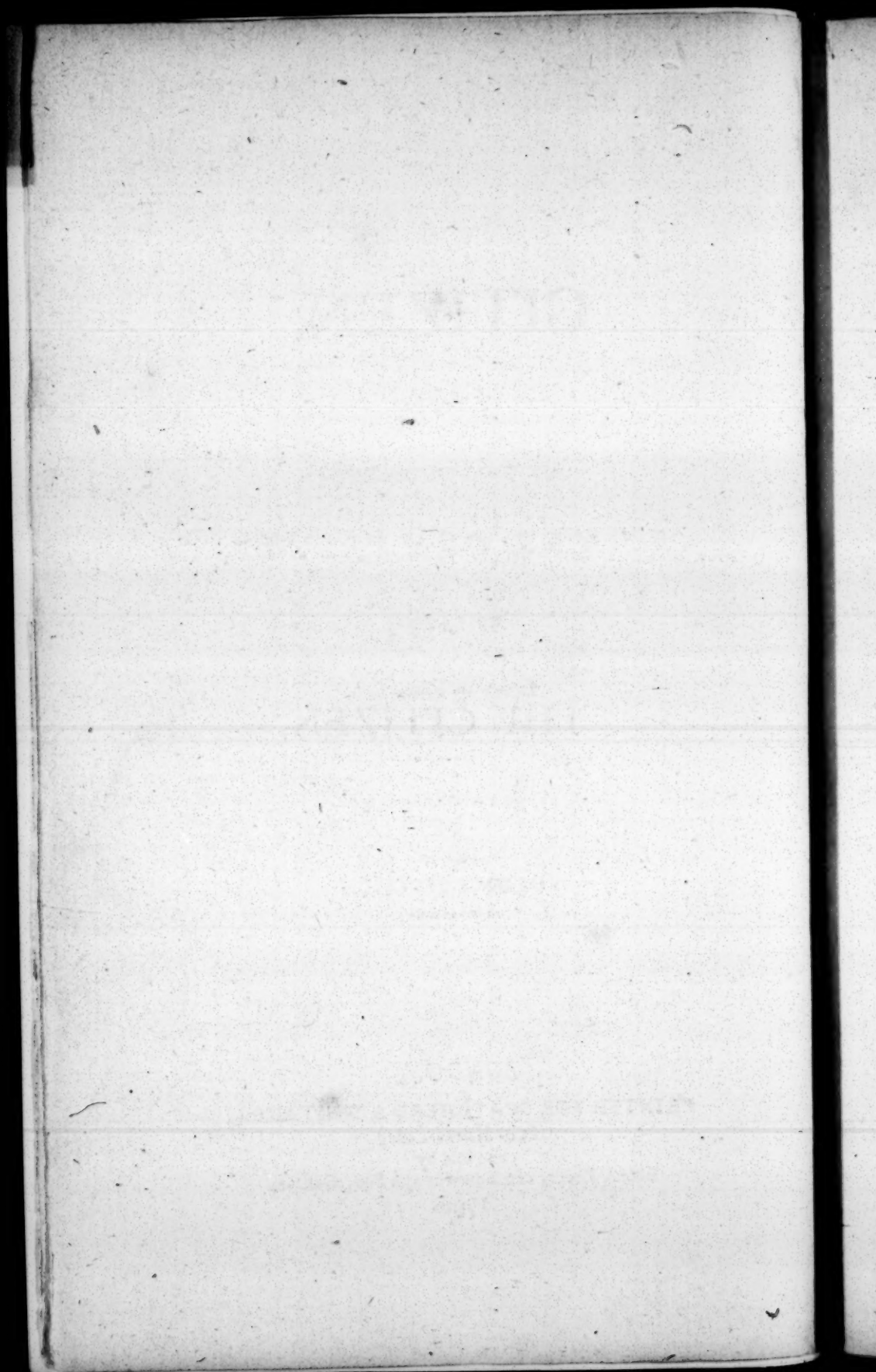


III

THE CITIZEN.

PRICE SIX SHILLINGS.





THE  
CITIZEN,

*A Novel,*

IN TWO VOLUMES,

BY MRS. GOMERSALL,

OF LEEDS,

*Author of Eleonora.*

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VOLUME SECOND.  
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# THE CITIZEN.

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## LETTER XXXII.

*Miss Melworth, to Miss Bertills.*

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MELWORTH-HALL.

NOTWITHSTANDING I am likely to see you so soon at Scarborough, yet I cannot forego the pleasure of informing you, that our party there will be enlarged by the pleasing addition of the Fitzallan family. They have been passing a few weeks at Matlock; their house being now ready for their reception, they came to it three days ago; and, yesterday morning, Louisa surprised me with her pres-

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ence

ence here.---She came to request our company home with her, to spend the day; a request which Mrs. Horton and I readily complied with. In our way thither, I remarked, to Louisa, that she appeared more grave than usual; in return to which, she said, that her happiness was but half complete till the arrival of her father. This, I think very natural; but, *entre nous*, my dear Rhoda, I thought she appeared exceedingly disappointed at the absence of Sir Edward: nay, I may say, I am *certain* she was so; for Mrs. Horton made the same observation, and spoke of it to me afterwards.---This is a circumstance which does not, in the least, excite my wonder; since my partiality to my brother leads me to think it next to an impossibility, that an amiable young woman like our friend, whose affections are perfectly disengaged, should be, for the space of a fortnight, constantly in his company, and yet remain insensible to his merits---to his numerous attractions, both personal and mental. To you he is a stranger; but I flatter myself, that when you are acquainted with him, your opinion will coincide with mine.



mine. At present, I am half tempted to wish he were less amiable—less agreeable ; or, rather, that he had been absent from home when Louisa was here before ; as the idea of her being attached to him fills me with much concern : not because such an alliance would not be highly pleasing to me, but because I fear that my brother's affections are too firmly fixed on the memory of his adored Matilda ever to admit of his making a second choice ; and, therefore, I fear for the happiness of my friend.---- But I will not *meet* trouble, it is always swift enough in its approach.

I had the pleasure of being a few hours in the company of Lady Castleton, for the first time ; who, together with her two daughters, the Duchess and Lady Jane, called to pay their respects to Mrs. Fitzallan. The acquaintance of the two families had, I found, commenced at Matlock, and bids fair to be lasting ; as they all seem equally pleased with each other. Her ladyship did me the honor to express much satisfaction at meeting me ; for which mark of her politeness, I find, I stand indebted to you ; as she informed me, that she had  
often



often heard me mentioned, with much esteem, by Miss Bertills; who, she added, had promised to introduce us to each other at Scarborough. Mrs. Fitzallan then said, that she must beg to be admitted of the party, for that neither herself nor Louisa could be happy if they did not embrace that opportunity of enjoying the company of Miss Bertills, who, she hoped, they should prevail upon to return and spend a few weeks with them, in her way to London. But upon this subject they intend writing to you. My brother is this moment returned from Harrowgate; you will, therefore, excuse this abrupt conclusion, from

your ever affectionate

*HARRIET MELWORTH.*

## LETTER XXXIII.

*The Hon. Augustus Fitzmaurice, to Sir Edward Melworth.*

FIR-GROVE.

I 'LL take *your* word for a city merchant another time, Edward: you perfectly know them I find, if I may take Mr. Bertills as a specimen of the whole body; but no doubt there are some exceptions.----That gentleman arrived here yesterday, and I think he exactly answers your description. I am infinitely pleased with him already. He has not, yet, developed his designs, with respect to Charles; but, I verily believe, he means to act in a friendly, generous manner.---Were you an eye witness of his behaviour, I am certain you would coincide with me in that opinion. I only wish our friend possessed a larger share of patience; his uneasy doubts appear to me wholly unnecessary; and, I hope, he will yet have reason to blush for his rash judgment of  
Mr.

Mr. Bertills. He yielded to its dictates more yesterday than ever he had done before ; so you may suppose we were neither of us in an enviable situation when the carriage stopped at the door. Charles, however, mustered up some small degree of fortitude ; and, with me, went into the hall, just as Mr. Bertills was alighting. He bowed to me, took Charles affectionately by the hand, but *could not* speak. The door of the dining-parlour stood open ; he rushed hastily into it ; and, the moment he entered, leaned his arm against the wainscot for support, and burst into tears ; nor could either of us avoid being affected. It was some time before Mr. Bertills recovered so far as to be able to articulate a word ; at length,

“ Would to heaven, my dear Charles,” said he, “ that we had met under happier  
“ auspices ; I should then have said I rejoice  
“ to see you : but the will of God be done ! ”

A solemn pause ensued.----Mr. Bertills wept again, accompanied by our friend.----after some minutes, the former resumed,

“ It is little more than two years since I  
“ saw you, and I perceive an amazing altera-  
“ tion.

“ tion.---Your person is the exact representa-  
“ tive of your father’s.---May you, likewise,  
“ my dear boy, inherit all his good qualities !”

Being now all of us brought into a tolerable degree of composure, Charles took the opportunity of introducing me to him as the son of Lord Lucan.---I find he formerly knew my father, and he inquired after him and Lady Lucan, of both of whom he spoke in terms of politeness and respect. The conversation became general, when poor Charles *affected* ease.----I could plainly see he did not *feel* it. After some time, Miss Bertills was mentioned, and Mr. Bertills talked of her with the partiality natural to a fond parent.

“ My daughter is the delight of my life,” cried he ; “ Mr. Fitzmaurice, I am *proud* of  
“ my Rhoda : but I must not say too much,  
“ lest you should be doubly disappointed  
“ when you see her;---for she has not the  
“ advantage of personal attractions.----She  
“ requires to be known e’er she can excite ad-  
“ miration ; and then, she seldom fails of en-  
“ gaging esteem. She is much altered,  
“ Charles,” added he, “ since you saw her,  
“ and



“and is not near so handsome *now* as *then*; so  
“you may suppose she stands no chance of  
“being toasted as a celebrated beauty.”

I rather doubt his veracity in that point, Edward: I own to you, when I look at *him*, *he* is really *very* handsome for his years; he is a tall, portly, elegant figure, and his face pleases me extremely; there is in it an expression of every thing that is good, amiable, and engaging; and he looks, at least, twelve years younger than he says he is. All these circumstances considered, you will not wonder that I should be a little alarmed by some part of the conversation that ensued as we were sitting over our glass after dinner yesterday.

“Well, Charles,”---said he, with a smile,  
---“how stands your heart affected now? did  
“you see no fair-one at Harrowgate worthy  
“the honor of filling up that vacancy Fanny  
“Elwood has left in it?”

“No, really, sir,”---replied he, laughing,---“I did not: without doubt, had I  
“sought for one there I might have found  
“many much more worthy than her; but she  
“has taught me caution,----I shall not fall in  
“love



“love again very quickly; I am pretty well  
“cured of that passion for some years to come,  
“if not for life.”

“What will you say,”---resumed Mr.  
“Bertills, gravely,---“If I should be married  
“first then?----I intend, before I return home,  
“to pay my respects to Miss Melworth, and  
“try what interest I can make for myself in  
“her affections.”

While he was speaking, my whole countenance was of a glow; I absolutely felt myself tremble.

‘Heaven forbid, sir,’ I exclaimed, ‘that  
‘you should be serious!’

He laughed out.---

“Oh, ho!” cried he, “serious or not  
“serious, I find I must relinquish all pretensions to the prize at once; for, I perceive,  
“I have a rival in you, and it is rather too  
“late in the day for me to put myself in competition with a fine young man, in an affair  
“of love; so you have no interruption to fear  
“from me.”

‘Thank you, sir,’ returned I, ‘you have  
‘relieved me; for had you been really serious

‘ I should have thought you a very formidable rival.’

“ Pho ! prythee, Fitzmaurice,” replied he, “ do not let your politeness transgress the boundaries of *truth* ; you could not think any such thing ; nor am I so vain an old fellow as to imagine Miss Melworth would ever have bestowed a serious thought upon me, if you had *not* stood between. No, no ; I was merely exercising the privilege of *age*, in jesting on a subject which I believed no one could have thought me in *earnest* about.”

Here the discourse dropped, and the rest of the day passed over agreeably enough. I should have thought it perfectly so, could I have divested my mind of concern for Charles, who, I was sensible, suffered a great deal of anxious fear, which was not lessened by his suspense. This morning, when we met at breakfast, Mr. Bertills drew his chair to the table, and, taking out his pocket-book, examined several papers, when having, I suppose, found the one he wanted he said to my friend,

“ You see, Charles, I have not left my business entirely behind me ; and, I think,  
“ I

"I never do; for, when I leave my home and  
"retire into the country for a little relaxation  
"from the cares of life, something always arises  
"that lays me under a necessity of mixing  
"affairs of commerce with my pleasures.----  
"It is just so now; I have business to do at  
"Leeds, and it is of that nature, that I shall,  
"probably, be a considerable loser, if I neglect  
"going about it this forenoon. If you  
"will order a carriage to be got ready, and  
"oblige me with your company thither, I'll  
"thank you."

Charles complied; but, as I wished to write to you, I declined attending them upon that plea, which was not admitted as the *reality* by Mr. Bertills.

"The true state of the case," said he,  
"I suppose is this; you think, Fitzmaurice,  
"you shall be happy in having a leisure opportunity  
"to contemplate the virtues of your  
"lovely Harriet; so I'll use no farther persuasion  
"with you."

I have now, my dear Edward, the pleasure to add, that I shall, this evening, return to the Lodge, where I shall continue two days,  
and

and then go over to Melworth-hall, to enjoy, in the converse of your lovely sister, a pleasure far superior to any which contemplation can afford me. Say something handsome for me to the ladies.

Yours,

AUGUSTUS FITZMAURICE.

### LETTER XXXIV.

*Miss Melworth, to Miss Bertills.*

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MELWORTH-HALL.

WITH inexpressible concern, I take up the pen to inform you, my dear Rhoda, that an event has occurred which puts it out of my power to gratify your wishes and my own by meeting you at Scarborough this season. It would be superfluous to add, how severely I feel the disappointment, after having so long flattered myself with the pleasing idea.----But daily experience convinces us of the uncertain-



ty of every human enjoyment; and we ought to learn not to depend very strongly upon the completion of any of them. It is the fate of every mortal, while in existence, to be perpetually *learning*; but few are thoroughly *taught*. The various dispensations of providence towards us, afford innumerable lessons for our advantage; but, like thoughtless children at school, we are apt to turn over the leaf, when we find a difficulty or dislike in our hearts to read it.-----*This* is a lesson to me of submission and patience on *one* account, and on *another*, of pious gratitude to the most high for having mercifully preserved the life of a valuable relation in a time of great danger.

You have often, my dear, heard me speak of my uncle Watson, my mother's brother. He has been in the East Indies during the last ten years and was returning hither, with an intention to spend the remnant of his days in his native country, when the ship he was on board of was wrecked, and many lives were lost in consequence. Providentially, Mr. Watson was amongst the few who were preserved, by clinging to pieces of the wreck; in which dismal



mal situation, hopeless of relief, they continued a night and a day---destitute of food---nearly so of covering; and their strength so nearly exhausted, that they would inevitably have perished, if a French vessel, bound for Havre-de-Grace, had not appeared in sight; and, as soon as they came near enough to behold the poor sufferers, immediately sent out their boat and took them all on board, where the utmost humanity and tenderness was extended towards them. Mr. Watson, who was before in a very precarious state of health, was rendered so much worse by the bruises and terrors he had undergone, that he was confined to his bed till the ship arrived at her port. The Marquess de Rivieres, who was a passenger, had him taken, with caution and tenderness, on shore, and immediately conveyed to his seat near Versailles, where he has ever since been entertained by the Marquess and Marchioness with the utmost hospitality and friendship. He is now almost well, but they will not consent to part with him till he is *perfectly* so. They have, therefore, written a very pressing invitation to my brother and me to go over to him;

him; their letter is dictated in polite and friendly terms, and was accompanied by one from Mr. Watson, enforcing their request. We are now preparing for our departure, which takes place in three days; my tender and estimable friend, Mrs. Horton, goes with us. I hope we shall return before the beginning of winter; when, if nothing happens to prevent, I promise myself the satisfaction of passing a few weeks with you in London. Heaven grant my dear uncle may be as well as he is represented to be! but forgive my superstition, Rhoda, if I say, I have strange disagreeable forebodings. I like not the prospect of the voyage, tho' short; I like still *less* the leaving of my friends. A tremendous tract of ocean separating me from the greatest part of those whom I most highly love, esteem, and venerate; amongst the number of them, I feel particularly distressed at quitting Lord and Lady Lucan, who have done me the honor to distinguish me by many marks of the kindest partiality. We have lately spent a great deal of time together, and their company and conversation has constituted much of my happiness.

---

I

I have been interrupted, my dear Rhoda, by a friend of Sir Edwards; it was Mr. Fitzmaurice, the only son of Lord Lucan. In this amiable young man, you see expanding into blossom all those virtues which time has, long since, matured, ripened, and brought to perfection in his parents. Added to this, he has, in his manners, an agreeable vivacity that makes him extremely engaging. He left Firgrove a few days ago; your father and your cousin Charles were both well. Mr. Fitzmaurice speaks of the *former* with delight.---- When he comes into *your* company, Rhoda, he will think of you with rapture. He has agreed to join our party to France, and is now writing to Lord and Lady Lucan to request their concurrence with his wishes. I am well pleased at it, as I know his company will make my brother additionally happy. The latter has received great benefit to his health and spirits by his short excursion to Harrowgate; this, to the Continent, will, I hope, be a means of perfectly restoring both.

I am glad to find, my dear, that you enjoy the happiness of Lady Castleton's company;

ny ; may it prove an ample compensation to you for being obliged to bear with so much of the Duke's ! Mr. Fitzmaurice knows him, and has diverted me highly by an account of *his* method of supporting a conversation. It is such an one as leaves no room to complain of his incapacity of affording *entertainment*, at least ; and the greatest part of the world seek for nothing farther.

Accept sincerest wishes for your health and happiness, from

your affectionate friend.

HARRIET MELWORTH.

LETTER



## LETTER XXXV.

*Charles Montgomery, Esq. to Sir Edward Melworth.*  
PRINTED BY G. DODD, ST. MARTIN'S LANE.

FIR-GROVE.

TRUTH compels me to declare, that the idea I had so very rashly formed of Mr. Bertills was not only *injurious* but *unjust*; and you, my dear friend, cannot more severely condemn me for judging so harshly of him, than I condemn myself. In the course of my life, I have been much in his company, but never, till now, knew his true character. I never, before, had occasion to study it. From his intense application to trade, I drew the very ridiculous inference, that he must, necessarily, be of a mercenary disposition; foolishly supposing, none but a miser would devote the principal part of his time to that pursuit, if he were able to live without. I am now thoroughly convinced my opinion was founded in error. I am, yet, in ignorance of Mr. Bertills' designs  
respect-



respecting me ; but my heart is at ease, from a certainty that he has too elevated a turn of mind to entertain a thought of reducing me to indigence by taking the utmost advantage that the law allows him ; or, of placing me in a state of precarious and degrading dependence. I have, therefore, dismissed all my fears, and in his hands I think myself safe. Let me now inform you of the event that has caused this change in my opinion ; your benevolent heart will be gratified by the relation.

When I accompanied Mr. Bertills to Leeds, it was, I confess, not without some little degree of reluctance ; concluding, from what he said previous to our setting out, that he was going upon some buying and selling business :---however, I covered my chagrin as well as I could, by an assumed cheerfulness, and asked no questions. On the way, he conversed in a very agreeable manner upon other topics. On our arrival, by his order, we drove to an inn ; where, leaving the carriage, he enquired for the house of a Mr. Clements ; and, having obtained information, we walked thither. A servant presently appeared

peared at the door, and conducted us into a room where a lady was sitting, alone, at work. At our entrance, she rose up, and, seeing Mr. Bertills, she turned pale and trembled; but his polite friendly manner soon dispersed her fears. He took her hand, and with a smile, said,

“ You see, my dear madam, old friends  
“ are not so easily thrown off as you, perhaps,  
“ imagined.---I have found you out, at last.  
“ Rhoda will be rejoiced at the intelligence,  
“ for she has not yet ceased regretting your  
“ loss.”

“ I am greatly obliged to Miss Bertills,  
“ sir,” returned she, “ I hope you left her  
“ well ?”

“ Perfectly so, madam,” he replied,  
“ she is now at Scarborough, where she pur-  
“ poses staying a few weeks, and, I am certain,  
“ her inclination to see you will be too strong  
“ to suffer her to return to London without  
“ making Leeds in her way. But where,”  
added he, “ is Mr. Clements ? I should be  
“ glad to see him upon a little affair of busi-  
“ ness.”

Mrs.

Mrs. Clements turned pale again at this, and visibly experienced some painful emotions she wished to hide ; rising from her seat, she rang the bell, and ordered a servant to fetch his master.

“ I should be sorry, my dear madam, to be guilty of any impertinence,” resumed Mr. Bertills, “ but I cannot help expressing the concern I feel at seeing your countenance overspread with dejection.-----You were, formerly, happy in an excellent flow of spirits, and I fear the loss of them is occasioned by some unfortunate occurrence.”

“ You judge right, sir,” returned she, “ it is really owing to a very unfortunate occurrence, which I fear will terminate greatly to our injury, if not cause our ruin. But, to deal ingenuously with you, sir, I will add, that I am no stranger to the business you have at present with Mr. Clements, as he heard, some time ago, that a bill for a large sum, drawn payable to him, (the drawer and acceptor of which are both bankrupts) lay in your hands.----The moment I saw you I conjectured what you came upon ;  
“ and

“ and knowing the utter impossibility of Mr. Clements taking it up, at this time, I felt a great deal of pain and confusion.”

“ And *I*,” cried Mr. Bertills, “ feel equal pain at finding you know so little of me as to suffer my presence, upon *any* occasion, to give you alarm; but, I trust, we shall be better acquainted shortly; for I really am not come to *demand* payment of it: therefore, my good lady, in *me* view only a friend ready to serve you.----I am happy the bill fell into my hands.----The name of Clements upon it struck me, the moment I saw it; and, on enquiry, I was convinced it was no other than my worthy friend, your husband; finding it was not paid, when due, I feared something was wrong, and determined to keep it till I came hither; tho’ Mr. —, of the Old Jewry, of whom I had it, offered to take it up, but I was too well acquainted with his principles to run the risk of putting in his power the man I esteemed, tho’ I am much displeased with him.”

“ I am very sorry, sir,”---said Mrs. Clements, with a serious look,---“ to hear that; I  
“ am



" am certain he never intended giving you  
" any offence ; but I think if you will explain  
" your meaning, it is in my power to excul-  
" pate."

" You had better not undertake so ardu-  
" ous a task," interrupted Mr. Bertills, " it  
" will be sufficient for you to justify your own  
" conduct in another affair, I mean your quit-  
" ting London, without letting Rhoda or me  
" know of your design, and not leaving us  
" even a clue whereby we might trace your  
" wanderings."

" I confess," replied Mrs. Clements, " it  
" had the appearance of rudeness, but it was  
" wholly undesigned ; my ill health caused  
" our removal, and it was done in such a hur-  
" ry that we had no time to think of taking a  
" proper leave of our friends ; nor would the  
" weakness of my spirits, then, have been able  
" to support such a scene. I have never been  
" in London since ; but it has been always my  
" intention to repair the error, as far as possi-  
" ble, by paying my respects the first time I  
" went, particularly to Miss Bertills ; who, I  
" had no doubt, would vouchsafe her par-  
" don to me."

She

She had scarce done speaking when Mr. Clements entered the room. The first look interested my heart in his favor; he is young, tall, and well formed; his countenance remarkably expressive of good sense and good nature. There is something strikingly pleasing in his manners, and the affectionate attention he pays to his wife,---to whom, I find, he has been married several years,---does him infinite honor. When we were again seated, Mr. Clements mentioned the bill. By this time I was heartily sick of that subject, and so, I suppose, was Mr. Bertills, for he stopped him short by saying,

“ Mrs. Clements and I have finally settled all that business; and now, as I have not a vast deal of time to spare, be so good to come to the main point, at once, by candidly opening your affairs to me, that I may know *what* I can do to serve you; for that in fact was what brought me hither. The trifling sum of two hundred pounds would not have caused me to come so many miles to-day merely to demand it.”

With

With a look of astonishment, Mr. Clements answered, " I am very ready, sir, to make  
" you acquainted with my affairs in return for  
" your generous kindness, tho' I am really  
" ashamed of the imprudence of my conduct,  
" which has thrown me into embarrassments  
" too great to hope for deliverance. The  
" cause is this; I have been long very inti-  
" mate with a person who is a partner in a  
" commercial house in this town; the trade of  
" it was very extensive, and they were often in  
" great want of cash; I thought the house  
" perfectly safe, and to serve that person I fre-  
" quently assisted them with loans. A few  
" months back, I very imprudently advanced  
" for them a large sum, the security they gave  
" me for it was in bills drawn by them upon  
" their agent in London, who accepted them;  
" and, in a few days after, stopped payment.  
" This immediately caused *their* house to do  
" the same; and, as I had previously negoci-  
" ated those bills, in the course of trade, the  
" different holders of them must, consequently,  
" look solely to me to take them up, which I  
" am now unable to do; for, in addition to

“ this severe stroke, my own agent, in Lon-  
“ don, has just stopped with a considerable  
“ sum of mine in his hand, and all the bills I  
“ have drawn upon him are, unexpectedly, re-  
“ turning to me. I have, therefore,” contin-  
ued he, “ no other resource now but calling  
“ my creditors together, and delivering up my  
“ all to them ; and, as the principal part of  
“ them are in London, I intend going up to-  
“ morrow for that purpose.”

“ But, my dear sir,” said Mr. Bertills,  
“ before you take such a step, let us first ex-  
“ amine farther into the necessity for it ; for  
“ the consequence of that would be not only  
“ throwing yourself out of trade, but so effec-  
“ tually deranging your concerns, that when  
“ you enter upon it again, you will have new  
“ connections to seek, and that want of confi-  
“ dence which would naturally for a long time  
“ influence the minds of the manufacturers in  
“ this part of the world, would subject you to  
“ infinite inconvenience ; whereas, on the oth-  
“ er hand, should a friend advance you imme-  
“ diately a sum sufficient to take up all the  
“ bills in question, and likewise enable you to  
“ pay



"pay ready money for your goods, till your  
"credit is perfectly reestablished, you would  
"be completely easy and upon firmer ground  
"than before."

"Ah, my good sir!" cried Clements, "I  
"feel the full force of all you have been say-  
"ing; but the sum necessary would be far too  
"large for me to ask the loan of it from any  
"person, particularly after what happened to  
"me yesterday, which has sunk my spirits,  
"and determined me to struggle no longer."

"What was that?" asked Mr. Bertills,  
"I beg you will let me know all without re-  
"serve."

"You shall, sir," replied Clements, "I  
"have no wish to conceal it. Mr. — of  
"the old Jewry, holds another bill for the  
"same sum as *that* you have; he has written  
"twice, threatening to strike a docket, if the  
"money was not paid directly. As I was not  
"in the way when one of the letters came,  
"Mrs. Clements opened and answered it; she  
"pleaded for an allowance of time, and stated  
"to him clearly my situation. In reply to  
"her, I was arrested yesterday, at his suit.

"Fortun-

“ Fortunately, I had a friend who bailed the  
“ action; but, as the money must either be  
“ paid in three days, or special bail given till  
“ November, I took the resolution of going  
“ to town to procure the latter, and adopt the  
“ measure I before mentioned.”

“ What do you deserve,” cried Mr.  
Bertills, “ for all your imprudent conduct?  
“ particularly in not taking care to get out of  
“ the power of such a wretch as Mr. ——?  
“ I know him well; he minds neither *law*  
“ nor *equity*. However, these troubles have,  
“ I hope, cured you of taking *more* care for  
“ others than for yourself; and, if so, the ex-  
“ perience will, in the end, prove *worth* the  
“ purchase, tho’, it must be allowed, you have  
“ paid a high price for it. But, now, Clem-  
“ ents,” continued he, “ tell me at once,  
“ what sum will be fully sufficient to answer  
“ all the purposes I mentioned, and I am ready  
“ to advance it before I leave you. But take  
“ this caution; do not, from false delicacy,  
“ deceive me by mentioning too *small* an one,  
“ for that would only be a means of plunging  
“ you into greater difficulties.----I *expect* it is  
“ not a trifle will do.”

Mrs.

Mrs. Clements walked to the window, and applied her handkerchief to her eyes; I could scarce forbear doing the same; while Clements, in a rapture of joy, exclaimed,

“Gracious heaven! what an offer! Mr. Bertills! my friend! my benefactor! my deliverer! Oh! teach me how to express my sense of your kindness! You are saving me from the torture of seeing my Theresa, my wife, reduced almost to poverty.----In this time of our extremity, you generously hold up a prospect of relief, and-----”

“Psha, psha! man,”---interrupted Mr. Bertills, peevishly,---“this is saying just as much as amounts to nothing, in the settlement of the matter before us; therefore speak to the purpose, and tell me how much money you want.”

“Oh, sir!” cried Mrs. Clements, “you must, indeed, you must suffer us to pour forth the grateful effusions of our-----”

“I tell you, madam,” interrupted he, “I will not suffer any such doings; it is really a very strange thing, that you ladies will never permit two men to adjust a little affair  
“of

“of business together, when any of you are  
“present, without teasing them with your in-  
“terruptions. Come, Clements,” added he,  
“speak your wants; I am all attention to *that*  
“subject, but I ’ll not hear a word upon any  
“other.”

“I am really ashamed to tell you, Mr.  
“Bertills,” returned he, “that not less than  
“*two thousand pounds* will be sufficient to an-  
“swer your design completely.”

“And *will* that sum do completely?”  
said he, “for, I confess, it is less than I expect-  
“ed.”

“I assure you, upon my honor, sir,” re-  
plied Clements, “it is amply sufficient.”

Mr. Bertills then requested pen and ink,  
and, taking some banker’s checks from his  
pocket-book, said,

“I ’ll write a draft for the money, and  
“then we ’ll go together to a banker here to  
“get it discounted; mean time, do me the  
“favor to send for that friend who bailed you  
“yesterday, I wish to speak with him.”

In a few minutes, Mr. Bertills presented  
Mr. Clements with a draft for the money,  
which



which was received in a manner better imagined than described. He had just finished drawing another, when the gentleman who had been sent for entered to us, and Mr. Bertills, with all the dignity of conscious goodness, rose and took him by the hand, saying,

“ You and I, my dear sir, meet as old acquaintance. You have, I find, rendered an essential service to the friend I esteem, for which accept my thanks. I took the liberty of sending for you now, sir, to request your farther assistance; but in the first place, I must insist upon your taking this,” presenting him with a draft for two hundred pounds, “ which we will get discounted immediately, and you shall retain the sum as your indemnification till the bill in the hands of Mr. — is paid, if you will, *for form’s sake*, join me in special bail; as I am determined he shall now wait till November for the money.”

This proposal was readily agreed too, and we went out together to the bankers; where, from the cordial reception Mr. Bertills met, we found he was well known to them. The drafts

drafts were discounted directly, and we proceeded to the attorney's, who looked at the plain dress Mr. Bertills wore, and, I imagine, conceived from *that* no very favorable idea of his fortune. He hesitated about accepting him, prefacing his doubts by a speech upon his duty to his client, and then told Mr. Bertills that he would not do unless he could swear himself an housekeeper, and worth four hundred pounds. Neither Clements, his friend, nor myself, could forbear laughing; but Mr. Bertills kept his countenance, and desired he would do him the favor to send, in his name, for Mr. ———, the banker, gravely adding, "I believe he will satisfy you that I may safely swear to being worth *four thousand*." The banker came, and, after laughing at the circumstance, convinced the attorney he was safe in accepting him, at the same time offering himself in stead if he had any doubts remaining; the attorney said he had not, and the affair was soon settled. When we were coming away Mr. Bertills said to him,

"Tell your client, when you write, to  
"send the bill to *my* counting-house next No-  
"vember;

“ vember ; it will be paid there *then*, and not  
“ before. He ’ll think himself very safe, for  
“ he knows Philip Bertills perfectly well.”

When we got back to Mr. Clements’s, he expressed a desire to give his bond for the money Mr. Bertills had advanced to him, who only replied,

“ Nonsense ! an honest man’s *word* is as  
“ good as his *bond*, at any time, and I cannot  
“ now stay for one to be prepared.”

He then *insisted* on giving his note of hand, as some small security for the repayment of it.

“ Well, well,” cried Mr. Bertills, “ *sat-*  
“ *isfy* yourself then.”

On receiving the note, he presented it to *me*, saying, “ ‘There, Charles, I make *you* a present of this.’ ” I immediately tore it in two and threw the pieces into the fire, upon which, he, with a look of pleasure and satisfaction, exclaimed,

“ Well done, young man ! I thought I  
“ was right in supposing you had not worldly  
“ wisdom enough for a man of business ; you  
“ will not do for a partner for me.---I see you  
C 5 “ would

" would be just such another imprudent fellow  
" as Clements has been. But here, take this  
" bill, which caused Mrs. Clements so much  
" pain, and see if you can dispose of that  
" *better.*"

A work-bag lay upon the table, and I put the bill carefully into that. Mrs. Clements was beginning to speak, but was interrupted by Mr. Bertills.

" I wish, my dear madam, you would be  
" so obliging to keep silence just now;----I  
" have a pleasure in hearing you talk when  
" business is not interrupted by it, but, at  
" present, I have something more to say to  
" your good man."

He then gave Mr. Clements some friendly advice respecting the immediate arrangement of his affairs, promised to see them again very soon, and we came away. As soon as we were seated in the carriage,

" Well, Charles," said Mr. Bertills,  
" how do you like my two young friends,  
" whom we have just quitted?"

' Extremely well, sir,' returned I, ' I  
" look upon Mr. Clements to be a noble,  
" generous fellow.'  
" Ay,



“ Ay, I thought,”---resumed he, laughing,---“ that such a man as Clements, who has, “ hitherto, regarded all mankind as his brethren, was just calculated to please *you* who “ know nothing of the world but by theory.--- “ I dare say now, you like him the *better* for “ this egregious folly he has been guilty of.”

‘ And really, sir,’ returned I, ‘ you will ‘ not easily make me believe that *you* like him ‘ at all the *less* for it.’

“ Your penetration is not deceived in that “ particular,” he replied, “ but I hope he will “ now learn a little more wisdom; tho’ not so “ much as to make him covetous, for I hate “ to see a *young* man of a sordid disposition. “ ---It is a despicable vice at *any* age, but in “ youth it is invariably a mark of a very *bad*, “ *depraved mind*; and how should it be otherwise? for when avarice has once entered “ the citadel, he keeps quiet possession for “ life, and bars the doors against every virtue---every amiable principle.----The tear “ of sympathy is no more seen to fall for others woes.----The sound of distress enters “ not thro’ the ear into the heart.----Nor, is “ the

“ the hand any more extended to afford a voluntary relief to the wretched. I declare to you, if I had a son, I would far rather see him a spendthrift than a miser.”

‘ I entirely agree with you, sir,’ said I, ‘ and I most sincerely hope avarice will never enter my breast ; but allow me to say, I did not think, when we left the Grove, that you were coming about such business as this.---- I rather expected you were going to *take* money than *give* it, as you told me, I remember, that if you deferred it longer you might probably be a *loser*.’

“ And did I not tell you the truth ?” resumed he, “ should I not have *lost* the delight of reflecting on that happiness which the goodness of God put it in my power to bestow ?”

We had more conversation to the same purpose, in which he displayed sentiments that did him the highest honor ; and I am certain, my friend, I can have nothing to fear for myself after having been witness to such a noble act of generosity, nor can a single idea to the prejudice of Mr. Bertills ever again enter my mind.

mind. I now feel a veneration and affection for him equal to that which I felt for my late revered father, and I only regret that my relationship to the former is attended with a circumstance so dishonorable to the pride and respectability of his family; this, whenever the thought enters, sensibly wounds the feelings of

Your friend,

CHARLES MONTGOMERY.

## LETTER XXXVI.

*Miss Bertills to Miss Melworth.*

SCARBOROUGH.

ALAS! my dear Harriet, what a mortifying disappointment is this! after entertaining for some weeks the most delightful expectations of seeing you here, to be informed that  
you

you are going farther distant from me than ever! Lady Castleton and her daughter, the Dutchess of —, are likewise greatly disappointed;—they had promised themselves much pleasure in the addition of my Harriet's charming society; but, as *your* friends, we ought not to murmur, since you are going to be again united to an amiable and beloved relation, from whom you have been long severed. May you enjoy a happy meeting with each other! and may Mr. Watson's life be long spared to heighten the felicity of his nephew and niece! I shall expect the pleasure of seeing him and Sir Edward with you in Chatham-place, early the ensuing winter; but forgive me, Harriet, if I say, I am rather in fear of your attracting the heart of some one amongst the young noblesse who may visit at the Marquess' de Rivieres', and may have power to prevail upon you to fix your future residence in France. Heaven forbid *that* should be the case! and may your brother's friend, Mr. Fitzmaurice, forbid it too! I flatter myself *you* are the magnet that attracts him from this kingdom. I find he has been  
often



often enough in your company to enable you to discover *his* merit, and I shall have but a poor opinion of his discernment if he has not yet discovered *yours*. I thank you for your intelligence of my father and cousin; I hope it will not be long before the *former* returns to me, for I am almost weary of being so much in the company of the Duke of ——. I wonder how Lady Castleton does to bear it;—to me his tongue is exceedingly tiresome: nor do I believe *you* would find so much entertainment from it as you imagine. Yesterday, when we assembled, at dinner, Lord Castleton happened to remark, that I looked unusually grave; and added, that he hoped it was not occasioned by any ill news I had received.

“Indeed, my Lord,” said the Dutchess of ——, “Miss Bertills has just now had a piece of intelligence sufficient to make us all look grave; a letter from Miss Melworth informs her, that——”

“Melworth——Melworth——” interrupted the Duke of ——, “I have heard you often mention *her*, Miss Bertills; I think you told me she was the daughter of the late Sir  
“ Thomas

“ Thomas Melworth.-----I remember him  
“ very well ; tho’ our intimacy dropped before  
“ he was married. His lady was the daughter  
“ of Colonel Watson. Sir William Rivers  
“ paid his addresses to her first, but she did  
“ not very well like him ; and then finding  
“ out that he kept a mistress, by whom he had  
“ nine children, she broke off the match.  
“ Poor lady ! she knew but little of the world  
“ to make such a trifle a serious objection to  
“ a man of his fortune.”

“ Upon my word,” cried the Dutchess,  
“ I think it was a very reasonable and solid  
“ objection, and I----”

“ True, Charlotte, true,” interrupted he  
again, “ it was reasonable enough there I’ll  
“ allow, because the mistress Sir William had  
“ then was seduced by him when a mere child.  
“ He persuaded her to elope with him ; and he  
“ kept her so snug, that her poor father never  
“ heard what became of her ; and, at length,  
“ died of grief for her loss. Not but Sir  
“ William was very kind to him, and offered  
“ him a living of two hundred a year, for he  
“ was only a poor curate, but he declined ac-  
“ cepting

“ cepting it, saying, it would be of no use to  
“ him, now ; he had lost all that was worth  
“ living for---his only child.”

“ Pray,” said Lady Castleton, “ is your  
“ Grace aware of the diabolical character you  
“ are giving your quondam acquaintance, by  
“ relating this anecdote of him ?”

“ Lord bless you ! my lady,” resumed  
he, “ it was a bad affair, I confess ; but what  
“ then ? he was but a *young* man, and she was  
“ a lovely girl, so it was natural enough. I  
“ have visited her often with him. He took  
“ care of her, too ; he did not throw her off to  
“ go upon the town, as Harry Lisson did.---  
“ *His* amours are *too* bad to be talked of ; but  
“ Harry was a sad rake, while his father lived ;  
“ now, indeed, he has thrown aside his gallan-  
“ tries with his red coat ; tho’, perhaps, he  
“ had better have retained them both ; for the  
“ mischief he did amongst the girls was am-  
“ ply compensated by his generosity to the  
“ whole world. He did not think much  
“ about paying his debts ; yet, as long as his  
“ money lasted, he *would* give to the poor.---  
“ But, now, his fortune is increased, he says,  
“ he

“ he cannot afford it. Gad, I ’ll tell you a  
“ droll story about that, my lady : when Lis-  
“ son was a young man, he had a favorite ser-  
“ vant who attended him upon all his exploits.  
“ In one of Harry’s mad pranks, when they  
“ went out together, the servant was mounted  
“ on a very spirited beast, which ran away  
“ with him, threw him into a ditch, broke  
“ one of his arms, two of his ribs, and almost  
“ tore an eye out. In this condition, he was  
“ conveyed home ; where, with proper care,  
“ his health was restored ; but he totally lost  
“ the sight of his eye, and the use of his arm ;  
“ and, as some recompense, his master gave  
“ him a little neat cottage upon his estate, and  
“ allowed him thirty pounds a year, which was  
“ regularly paid till the death of Lisson’s fa-  
“ ther, when Harry ordered it to be with-  
“ drawn. The poor fellow took courage and  
“ went to his master to know if it was true.  
“ Lisson very gravely told him, he had given  
“ the orders because he could not *afford* the  
“ payment any longer. “ I am very sorry for  
“ that, sir,” said the man, “ I thought you  
“ could do it *easier* now, you are come to  
“ such



“such a fine estate? “That,” said his master, “is the very reason I cannot afford it.---I “have *now something worth saving*---and I “never had before.”

“I wish,”---cried the Dutchess, pettishly,---“your Grace would take my advice, and “never give any more anecdotes of your “friends; for, I think, they reflect no lustre “upon your judgment, in having made choice “of them.---I protest, I shall never like Lis- “son again.”

“Ha! ha! ha!” resumed he, “why “they are all very well in their way, and men “of honor too; no man fought more bravely “for his country in the last war than Lisson “did. He was standing very near Lord “Howe when a shot came and took his “Lordship off so hastily. Ah! he was a “great loss to us; but he died with honor, as “he had lived. The Howes were truly vali- “ant. The General, Sir William Howe, “where will you find such another noble, in- “trepid commander? I met him t’ other “day, he is grown very fat since he came “from America; very fat, indeed. After all, “the

“ the air of Old England agrees best with him.  
“ Give me Old England, there’s no place  
“ like it; what say you, my Lord, do ’nt you  
“ think so?”

“ Your Grace cannot be more partial to  
“ it than I am,” “ replied Lord Castleton,  
“ on every account, but particularly on that  
“ of its constitutional government. Our laws  
“ are founded in equity; and the liberty which  
“ the legislative power secures to the people,  
“ prevents any infringement upon them.  
“ Thus every subject may live at ease; enjoy-  
“ ing, without molestation, the gatherings of  
“ his vintage, and the profits of his indus-  
“ try.----And, while the British sceptre is  
“ swayed by a monarch like the present, with  
“ wisdom to govern, and virtues to en-  
“ dear him to his people, this island may boast  
“ the superiority of its blessings; and it is  
“ with delight I behold, in the numerous  
“ progeny of our good and gracious Sover-  
“ eign, a long succession of the Brunswick  
“ line, to fill the throne of Britain, and con-  
“ vey to *succeeding* ages the blessings of *this*.  
“ But, Miss Bertills,” continued his Lordship,  
“ the

“ the Duke has somehow or other caused our  
“ discourse to wander widely distant from its  
“ origin. Give me leave to ask, what has  
“ happened to Miss Melworth, to cause the  
“ concern which is so visible in your counte-  
“ nance ?”

‘ An unexpected event, my Lord,’ re-  
turned I, ‘ obliges her and Sir Edward to go  
‘ over to France ; and, consequently, disap-  
‘ points me of the pleasure of seeing her till  
‘ the commencement of winter.’

“ That *is* vexatious indeed,” cried the  
Duke, “ very vexatious ; I wanted to see her  
“ myself. I suppose she is much like her  
“ mother ; and, if so, I think Sir Edward does  
“ wrong to take her to France. She ’ll mar-  
“ ry there, very likely, for Frenchmen know  
“ how to distinguish between *natural* and *ar-*  
“ *tificial* beauty. They like our English la-  
“ dies, better by half than they do their own  
“ painted ones. Lord Ackworth’s daughter,  
“ you know, married a French Marquess.  
“ She had but a small fortune ; which made  
“ his Lordship give consent to the match ; for  
“ he could not help himself, having gamed  
“ away

“ away the greatest part of his estate, and the  
“ rest was at *nurse*, while he and his family re-  
“ sided upon the continent; of course, he  
“ could add nothing to her fortune, and  
“ doubtless might be glad to save expences by  
“ getting her off his hands. His beautiful  
“ seat at R—— is now inhabited by Sir  
“ Thomas Brown, the well-known usurer.  
“ Sir Thomas knows the value of money; he  
“ lent Lord Osborn a large sum once, in my  
“ presence, and he made him pay a confound-  
“ ed premium for it. However, my Lord was  
“ his very humble servant, and waited on him  
“ half-way down stairs. I suppose he thought  
“ he might want him again in a day or two, for  
“ *he* made no more of guineas than *I* make of  
“ half-crowns.”

The Duke would most likely have run on much longer, but he was interrupted by the entrance of Lady Ann Lenox, who ran in without waiting to be announced.

“ I intrude, very abruptly,” cried she,  
“ but I have been looking every where in the  
“ world for you, all this morning; where, in  
“ the name of wonder, did you hide your-  
“ selves?”



"selves? there 's the sweetest gown-piece to  
"be raffled for, that ever you saw in your life,  
"and if you do not set down your names be-  
"fore night the raffle will be filled, and you  
"cannot think what a lovely thing it is."

"Pray, Lady Ann," said the Dutchess,  
"what is it? silk, chintz, muslin, or what?"

"Oh, Lord bless you, my dear," resum-  
ed she, "you cannot form any idea of the  
"beauty of it, you must see it, 't is superla-  
"tively elegant, and quite undescribable.----  
"A white Italian crape, wrought with silver,  
"and all done in-----"

"Lady Ann," interrupted the Duke,  
"have you seen the sword knot at ——? I  
"was raffling for it this morning; his Grace  
"of L—— came into the shop, mean time,  
"and told me, that the beautiful Miss Gray,  
"who was so much admired at the last ball,  
"eloped last night with the Honorable George  
"Ashburn.----It is supposed they are gone to  
"Scotland; but the finest part of the jest is,  
"they managed the matter so very cleverly that  
"neither of them were missed till near break-  
"fast time this morning; when it was too  
"late

“late to pursue them with any hopes of success. So she stands fair to be *my Lady*, in time; for the title *must* descend to Ashburn; and as to the estate, what need he care about that;—*one* room-full of old Gray’s pledges will purchase a better than his father is in possession of; for a pawnbroker is certainly the best business in the world.”

“Well, I declare,” cried Lady Ann, “I never, in my life, met with any person so intelligent as your Grace! I wonder how you gain all your information; for you know *every thing*, and *every body* in the universe I believe!”

“There’s nothing easier, Lady Ann,” returned he, “people may gain information upon every thing, if they will but take pains to attempt it. I once had a valet that was a pawnbroker’s son, and I used to ask him so many questions about that business, I soon gained from him knowledge enough to qualify me for the management of it myself. You would not believe what immense gains they make. I wanted to persuade *him* to

“to go into the same way, when he married,  
“but the fool despised it, and he now keeps  
“the Talbot-Inn at ———; I think, how-  
“ever, he will not die so rich as his father  
“did, tho’ his wife is a pretty woman too, and  
“in the hunting and shooting season their  
“house is always full of company.----They  
“are often obliged to turn away travellers.  
“The Dutchess and I stopped there, one  
“night, in our way to town; they would not  
“turn *us* away, but they sat up themselves all  
“night to make room for us.”

“That was the least they could do,”  
said Lady Ann, “it would have been odd  
“indeed if they had sent *you* away.”

“Not at all, my lady, not at all;” re-  
sumed the Duke, “for Lord Dunmow put  
“up once at an inn, upon one of his own es-  
“tates, and they could not make room for  
“him, but obliged him to go five miles far-  
“ther for accomodation, and yet he had been  
“very kind to the landlord too; the fellow  
“had been a private in his own regiment.  
“His Lordship, for some trifling affair, raised  
“him to the rank of quarter-master, and he  
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“enjoys half pay now. They tell me, my  
“Lord,” continued he, “that a vast num-  
“ber of subaltern officers have been lucky  
“enough to get appointed for guards to the  
“mail-coaches; its a charming thing for  
“them, a very charming thing indeed. Gov-  
“ernment, I believe, pays them half a guinea  
“per week, and they have what they can get  
“of the passengers besides, which is, I sup-  
“pose, pretty considerable.”

“I vow and protest” exclaimed Lady Ann, “your Grace should be called the re-  
“pository of universal knowledge; for all  
“subjects come alike to you: but I have not  
“time now to stay to hear the discussion of  
“any more. I want to know how the raffle  
“fills; so, ladies,” added she, “if you are ready  
“we ’ll go; but I declare if either of you get  
“the *sweet, dear gown*, I shall almost expire  
“with envy.”

Her ladyship then hurried away, and the Dutchess and I with her. But oh! dire to tell! the raffle had been filled, and the *dear, sweet gown* won, and carried off in triumph by the Honorable Miss Poultenev.



I have covered a deal of paper, Harriet, and yet I seem to have said nothing. Indeed, I felt an irresistible propensity to give you one of *my* specimens of the Duke's conversation.--- I suppose it will accord with that before given you by Mr. Fitzmaurice; tho' it cannot afford you so much diversion, because there wants the peculiar air and manner attending the delivery. An attention to his Grace's discourse is something similar to following a long fatiguing fox-chace; you may probably arrive at the honor of being *in* at the death, but you can bring away nothing to repay the toils you have endured in the pursuit. Adieu my valuable friend,

I am ever yours,

RHODA BERTILLS.

P. S. Disappointments, they say, never come singly; and I now painfully experience the truth of this assertion.---The post has just brought me a short letter from Louisa Fitzallan; which informs me, that she and her mother

mother were in hourly expectation of the return of her brother, who was gone to London to transact some business of importance at the India House, when an express arrived, with intelligence of his having been unfortunately overturned in an hackney coach, by which accident his shoulder was dislocated. She adds, that her mother and herself were inexpressibly wretched on the occasion, and were preparing to set out for the metropolis with all possible expedition; where, she thinks, they shall wait the arrival of her father, and, of course, not return before the next spring. Heaven grant they may find their beloved Henry better than they expect!

LETTER

## LETTER XXXVII.

*Charles Montgomery, Esq. to Sir Edward Melworth.*

FIR-GROVE.

AND so, my good friend, I am not likely to see you again during the summer? a circumstance, this, which chagrined me greatly, when I perused your last letter:\* yet, even then, I could participate in your joy at the safety of Mr. Watson: but, as I have a heart capable of feeling for the *woes* of others, the fervor of my rejoicing is somewhat allayed by the recollection of poor Lady Gertrude Car-ruther's distress. How great, how severe will be her disappointment, at finding you do not meet her at Bristol hot-wells! Alas! what will become of her! she must lay by the *prim-rose* and substitute the *willow*. I fear she will sink under the mortification. I hope you have

\* Omitted as unnecessary.

have written to *console* her under so heavy a calamity. Yes; you must have done it; your feelings are abundantly too tender to suffer you to leave England without attempting to *alleviate* her misery; which would be too powerful for any thing less than your presence to *remove* totally. Methinks I see her now;--- she has just received your letter.---Imagination carries me upon its wing.---I, at this moment, ascend Clifton's delightful hill; I seek the forlorn, desolate Lady Gertrude. At length, I find her, in some solitary spot; seated on a verdant hillock; under the spreading branches of a venerable old oak. Her looks wear the traces of heart-felt distress; she is soothing her sorrows with the sound of her lute, accompanied by her voice, interrupted by sighs and tears; and, as love, they say, like all other troubles, makes people poetic, she is warbling forth some *dismal ditty* she has composed for the melancholy occasion, in the true pastoral stile; something like the following; which you may, if you please, *entitle and call*



THE ANCIENT VIRGIN'S LAMENTATION,  
 for the loss of her  
*BEAUTY AND HER LOVERS.*

YE tender----ye delicate fair,  
 To whom woes, such as mine, are unknown;  
 May ye ne'er feel the pangs of despair,  
 Nor by love be your reason o'erthrown!

Ah! attend, I beseech you, a while,  
 And hear me, my sad tale relate;  
 From your face should it banish a smile,  
 Such pity would soften my fate.

Like *you*, I was *once* young and gay;  
 Like *you*, *too*, had charms to engage;  
 Each shepherd to *me* tun'd his lay,  
 And urg'd me his grief to assuage.

Elated with pride, I disdain'd  
 To be captive to those I'd subdu'd;  
 O'er the plain I with tyranny reign'd,  
 Nor was mov'd when for pity they sued.

But, ah! their revenge is complete;  
 My *beauty*, alas! is decay'd;  
 No shepherd *now* sighs at my feet,  
 And I fear---I shall *die* an old maid.

This

This heart, too, once hard as a stone,  
 Love's arrow has pierc'd to the core;  
 The dear object I doat on is gone,  
 Nor knows how his loss I deplore.

Oh! would I my Edward had known,  
 Ere *wrinkles* had furrow'd my face!  
 Ah! his heart, it had then been mine own,  
 And in mine it had left no void space.---

But, now, I may sigh thro' the day,  
 And, at night, wash my couch with my tears;  
 For my Edward is gone far away,  
 All unheeding my hopes or my fears.

How strenuous my efforts to please!  
 With what care did I deck my *few* charms!  
 Nay, I'd e'en have gone *down on my knees*  
 To allure the lov'd swain to my arms.

Alas! my advances were vain;  
 He quickly withdrew from my sight;  
 Since when, I've no joy on the plain,  
 In which, once, I was wont to delight.

What say you to my poetic talent? I  
 believe you will think I am not much indebted  
 to the *muses* for their assistance in the forego-  
 ing; however, be that as it may, it will suit  
 the

the occasion: if ever Cupid send an arrow to my heart, the tuneful nine will then, undoubtedly, pay me a consolatory visit in form; and by their inspiration, I shall, of course, be more successful --- Till that period arrives, Edward, you must wait with patience for the full perfection of my genius; at present, as you may perceive, it is but in the bud; so I'll leave it there, and turn to something else.

I have the satisfaction to tell you, that every hour I spend in the company of Mr. Bertills increases my esteem for him. I often wonder, that, after having intimately known him so *long*, I should, till now, know him so *little*. I declare, to you, he appears perfectly *new* to me; and, far from *unentertaining*, he possesses a great degree of chearfulness which enlivens his conversation very much. Yesterday morning, we were strolling about the grounds together, when a sudden storm of thunder, lightening, and rain overtook and wetted us to the skin, before we reached the house. The door leading into the housekeeper's apartment being nearest, we entered by that, and went immediately into the parlour, where old

D 5

John

John and Mrs. Ellis were sitting; the former went in quest of dry apparel for us, while the latter prepared some mulled wine. We had changed our raiment and were regaling ourselves by the fire when Mr. Bertills said,

“ This is a sweet situation; you live  
“ very pleasantly here, Mrs. Ellis.”

“ Yes, sir,” returned she, “ it is impos-  
“ sible to find a more delightful spot; I am  
“ sure I should be very sorry to leave it.”----  
Sighing, she added,----“ But John was say-  
“ ing, just now, that he supposed you would  
“ *sell* this estate; and to be sure, sir, it is nat-  
“ ural to expect you will, because it is too far  
“ from London for you to come here often  
“ enough to make it worth while to keep it.”

“ I imagine then, Mrs. Ellis,” resumed  
Mr. Bertills, “ John is *your* oracle; but in  
“ this instance, he does not prove a very true  
“ one: neither he nor you know any thing of  
“ the matter, for I have not the smallest inten-  
“ tion to *sell this estate*.”

“ I am very glad of it, sir,”---cried she,  
much pleased,---“ and I hope you find every  
“ thing to your satisfaction that is under *my*  
“ management here?”

“ O,



"O, perfectly so;" replied he, "but  
"pray, Mrs. Ellis, what does this question  
"lead to?"

"I hope you will excuse me, sir," resumed she, "for making so free, but, indeed  
"it would make me very happy to be informed  
"ed by you that I am to have the honor of  
"continuing *here* in *your* service."

Mr. Bertills, with some degree of sternness, replied, "The *happiness* you would derive from such a piece of information as  
"that, Mrs. Ellis, depends upon circumstances you are not in the least aware of; I shall,  
"therefore, leave your petition unanswered.  
"But," added he, "let me ask you one  
"question, Mrs. Ellis: pray how many years  
"have you known *me*?"

"Sir?"---said she, with such apparent confusion and surprise as made me feel heartily for her.

"I ask you," repeated he, "how many  
"years you have known me?"

"I really---sir,"---cried she hesitating, and I believe, scarce knowing what answer to make,---"upon my word, I can't tell exactly,  
"sir;

“sir;—but I think it is somewhere about  
“thirty years.”

“Yes,” said he, “I think it is; and in  
“that time you have had opportunities of see-  
“ing and knowing a great deal of my con-  
“duct: and now, Mrs. Ellis, I should be glad  
“to know if you ever yet found me guilty of  
“one premeditated act of injustice?”

“Oh, dear! no, sir!” cried she never in  
“my life.”

“Very well, then,” said Mr. Bertills,  
“I am satisfied; and, in return, will satisfy  
“you, by an assurance, that five thousand a  
“year is not temptation strong enough to  
“cause me to be guilty of one now; so you  
“have only to make yourself easy, and depend  
“upon it *you* ’ll be no sufferer.----You reign  
“here, *sole* mistress; you have every thing  
“your own way; no one presumes to inter-  
“rupt or control you; and, if you are not  
“happy and comfortable, why it *must* be your  
“own fault, I think.”

“Indeed, sir,” replied she, “I beg your  
“pardon, I did not mean to offend---I am---”

“Nor

"Nor am I offended," interrupted he, "but I cannot help being provoked when I see people taking an infinite deal of pains to search for troubles which seem unwilling to approach them."

Just at this moment old John came into the room. Mr. Bertills started from his seat; and, between jest and earnest, said to him,

"You are come, I suppose, sir, to give me the *second part* of the tune; but the music is *discordant*---I had rather not hear it."

John looked queerly, and hardly knew whether to speak or remain silent; at length, he ventured to say,

"I only came to tell you, sir, that farmer Dobson is here, and desires me to present his *bumble duty* to you, and hopes you 'll be so good to give the steward directions to grant him a new lease of his farm."

"Pray, John,"---said Mr. Bertills, resuming his good humor,---"do me the favor to present, in return, my best respects to farmer Dobson, and desire him to carry his *bumble duty* back again, or else to a better market; for it is one of those commodities

"I

“ I never deal in ; and, consequently, do not  
“ understand : nor do I recollect having ever  
“ heard it mentioned in my compting-house,  
“ so I suppose it is not a very saleable article.”

“ But pray, sir,”----cried John, who  
“ could scarce forbear laughing,----“ what  
“ must I say to him about the lease ?”

“ Tell him,” replied he, “ to give him-  
“ self no farther concern about the matter, but  
“ contentedly leave that affair in the hands of  
“ providence ; all *he* has to do is to endeavour  
“ to perform his duty to God and man.----In  
“ the day time, to cultivate his lands ; and,  
“ when he has done work, at night, go home  
“ to his family in good-humor ; kiss his wife ;  
“ play with his children ; eat his supper ; re-  
“ turn thanks to his maker ; and lie down to  
“ sleep with a quiet conscience.----Let no  
“ worldly cares disturb him, and he will do  
“ very well lease or no lease. You need not  
“ stop, John,” added he, “ that is all I shall  
“ say about it ; and if the other farmer should  
“ come upon a similar errand, the *same* answer  
“ must do for him too---I shall give no other ;  
“ for I do not like to be teased about business,  
“ when



“ when I come into the country for pleasure  
“ only.”

Then addressing me, he said,

“ What a strange perverseness there is in  
“ our nature, Charles! for, even when we  
“ have all we can possibly want or wish, yet if  
“ it is not obtained or secured exactly in our  
“ own way, a train of dissatisfactory ideas enter  
“ our minds;—rob our *great Creator* of that  
“ gratitude he has a just claim to, and *our-*  
“ *selves* of all the happiness we might other-  
“ wise enjoy from his beneficence. But come,  
“ let us quit this apartment, or I may have  
“ more petitions; and I am not in the disposi-  
“ tion to attend to any.”

We then went to the library; and after a short silence, Mr. Bertills exclaimed,

“ What an unbounded curiosity there is  
“ amongst these servants, and people of their  
“ class in life! Mrs. Ellis may, perhaps, have  
“ some concern for *your* welfare at heart; but  
“ still I believe her curiosity is the strongest  
“ of the two. The anxiety she affected about  
“ her own station was *merely affected*; for it  
“ is

“ is impossible *she* can have any fear of not be-  
“ ing provided for comfortably, nor can the  
“ farmers fear being turned out of their  
“ farms.----The sum and substance of all is,  
“ that they every one want to know *how* this  
“ estate is to be disposed of.----I saw *that*,  
“ clearly, and therefore chose to answer equi-  
“ vocally, to leave them as much in the dark  
“ as ever ; and I really should like to keep them  
“ so ; but that is not possible ; a very short  
“ time will explain every thing. I expect Mr.  
“ Dalton, one of my clerks, to come down  
“ with the necessary papers for that purpose ;  
“ which, I suppose, are not yet ready, or he  
“ would have been here before now, as all his  
“ family connections live in Yorkshire ; and I  
“ have given him liberty to spend a month  
“ amongst them ; so there is no doubt of his  
“ coming the moment the papers are ready for  
“ him.”

I have only room to add,

yours, sincerely,

CHARLES MONTGOMERY.

LETTER

## LETTER XXXVIII.

*The same, to the same.*

FIR-GROVE.

Y ou must not expect coherency from me, Edward; the nature of my present subject forbids;---it has absorbed every faculty I possess in admiration and grateful joy. What a man is Mr. Bertills! how noble, how generous, how exalted is his conduct! In the amiable qualities of the heart *no one* ever surpassed him, and *few* ever equalled him. Every day displays to my view some excellency in his character unseen before, but which, perhaps, had not been so long concealed had I studied the character of his mind, as accurately as I have of late done. Methinks, my friend, the study of mankind must be more pleasing than I have hitherto thought it; henceforth I will accustom myself to it. The brightest *jewel* may, in a cursory view, pass unobserved, undistinguished. It is just so  
with

with respect to characters.----The outward graces are attractive; but the nobler virtues, being generally hid behind a veil of modesty, pass unperceived, till some discerning eye penetrates thro' the veil, and discovers the valuable gem. We do not, often, see an instance of the *virtues* accompanying the *graces*; but they meet in Mr. Bertills. Every favor he confers is enhanced by his manner of conferring it. Early this morning, Mr. Dalton arrived from London, and was immediately introduced to us, when I felt particular pleasure in observing the polite and friendly manner in which he was received by Mr. Bertills, who inquired after all his servants as affectionately as if they had been his children; after which he said,

“ Well, Dalton, I imagine you began to  
“ despair of the lawyers finishing the deeds before the summer was over; I acknowledge  
“ my patience was nearly exhausted. I want  
“ to get back to Scarborough, as much as you  
“ wish to be amongst your relations.”

“ Really, sir,” replied he, “ my patience  
“ has been pretty severely tried; but the lawyers are a tedious set of beings; all one can  
“ urge



“urge to induce them to expedite business is  
“ineffectual: for instance, I never failed call-  
“ing once a day upon Mr. L——, but all to  
“no purpose; he would take his own time.  
“However, he has, at length, completed the  
“affair, and, I suppose, that the *substance* of  
“those writings might be comprised in a  
“fourth part of the compass.”

“Without doubt it might;” said Mr.  
Bertills, “but lawyers must *live* as well as  
“others; and when they happen to be men of  
“superior abilities, who will act for the inter-  
“est of their client, nor ever undertake any  
“business of a dishonorable kind, then the  
“consideration that a fortune must necessarily  
“have been expended in *qualifying* them for  
“their profession, should teach us to submit,  
“without murmuring, to that prolixity which  
“apparently entitles them to make an heavy  
“charge. But,” continued he, “did you get  
“my good friend M——, the counsellor, to  
“examine the deeds?”

“I did, sir,” replied Dalton, “and he  
“says they are as you would wish——without  
“a flaw: but you will find a letter from him,  
“in the parcel, sir.”

Mr.

Mr. Bertills read it with perfect satisfaction; after which he perused the deeds; and then, the steward being called in, he requested him and Mr. Dalton to witness his executing them. *I* was ignorant of the nature of the deeds; but, as *I* was, apparently, deemed an incompetent witness, of course, could not help thinking they concerned me very nearly, and some degree of impatience mixed with my curiosity to be satisfied in that particular. When the business was over, Mr. Dalton took his leave, and we were left to our selves.-----A silence of some minutes succeeded.-----At length,

“My dear Charles,” said Mr. Bertills,  
“my thoughts have just now reverted to the  
“contents of some letters I received from you,  
“soon after the decease of your father; they  
“made an impression upon my memory, be-  
“cause I read them with much pain, proceed-  
“ing from my concern at finding that the care  
“which had been bestowed upon your mind,  
“by the most arduous endeavours to incul-  
“cate the purest principles of genuine piety,  
“had been bestowed in vain.      The long se-

“ries

“ries of blessings you had enjoyed, appeared  
“to be all obliterated from your remembrance  
“by the destructive hand of ingratitude,  
“which had planted in your breast the seeds  
“of doubt and despair; you forgot to trust in  
“the mercy and goodness of the Most High,  
“and you felt no dependence upon his omni-  
“potence.”

‘Oh, my dear sir,’ cried I, ‘I stand cor-  
‘rected; and with anguish have I lamented  
‘the weakness of my faith: but it is, I be-  
‘lieve, not only a common but a *just* observa-  
‘tion, that, in this state of frail humanity, the  
‘most experienced christians too often find it  
‘difficult to penetrate thro’ the dark clouds of  
‘temporal afflictions, and view a supporting  
‘God with that degree of resignation to his  
‘will and dependence on his power, which is  
‘due to *his* glory, and necessary for our *own*  
‘comfort.’

“Ah, Charles,” resumed he, “I perceive  
“you are making the practice of others a rule  
“for the government of your own conduct;  
“and attributing to the weakness of human  
“nature those errors which result solely from  
“the

“ the depravity of the heart. You rest satis-  
“ fied under the idea of an incapacity to re-  
“ sist; and, forgetting that the life of a chris-  
“ tian is a state of continual warfare, you neg-  
“ lect, when temptations assail, to *put on the*  
“ *whole armour of God*. Believe me, my dear  
“ Charles, I have your eternal happiness at  
“ heart, and I cannot evince it more strongly  
“ than by beseeching you henceforth to make  
“ the sacred writings the *only* standard of your  
“ faith and practice; it is the only one that  
“ will not lead you into error. It has been  
“ the will of God to try your patience, for a  
“ short time, by divesting you apparently of  
“ every *human* support; that you might there-  
“ by be compelled to place your dependence  
“ upon him alone, and to pour out your soul  
“ before him. I trust this short trial has been  
“ productive of these happy effects. It was my  
“ wish to assist in the means of promoting  
“ them; and, therefore, I refrained from in-  
“ forming you of my designs long ago. The  
“ ambiguity of my letters and behaviour has  
“ doubtless excited your wonder. I have now  
“ explained my motive; and will, therefore,  
“ release



“ release you from suspense, by telling you,  
“ that, as I never had any expectation of in-  
“ heriting the estates of your late father, I  
“ can feel no loss in relinquishing an apparent  
“ right to them. It never was my intention  
“ to exert the power the law gives me of ap-  
“ propriating them to my own use ; for, from  
“ the first moment I was made sensible of the  
“ situation you were left in, I considered all  
“ the property both *real* and *personal* as your  
“ *natural and equitable right*, and myself as  
“ a guardian to *secure* that right to you firmly.  
“ Thro’ the goodness of the Almighty, my  
“ own fortune is such as leaves me without  
“ even the shadow of an apology, satisfactory  
“ to my conscience, for unjustly infringing on  
“ the property of any person upon earth.  
“ These,” continued he, “ are the deeds  
“ which now invest you and your heirs for  
“ ever with a *legal* title to the estates. The  
“ writings have taken more time in preparing  
“ than I expected they would, because the  
“ estate in Sussex, being entailed upon the  
“ male heirs of my family (who, by the way,  
“ have no more occasion for it than I have),  
“ required

“ required me to pass *a fine* and *suffer a recovery* to enable me to *dock the entail*. I know not whether I have given you the right law terms, but that is of little consequence, Charles.----I have done that which was necessary to make it yours entirely; for, without this process, Counsellor M——— told me I could give you no more than a life interest in it.”

Mr. Bertills then put the parchments into my hands, and precipitately quitted the room. I remained some time lost in astonishment; at length, having wiped away the tear of gratitude, I went in search of him. When we met, I was beginning to make some acknowledgments of his generosity and goodness, but he prevented me by saying,

“ I have no claim upon your gratitude, Charles, I arrogate to myself no merit in the action----I could not have done differently.----If you think thanks are due, pay them to the supreme being; and testify your sincerity by emulating the conduct of my friend, your late father, in the *use* of what is committed to your charge:---ever bearing

“ upon

“upon your mind that *to whom much is given*  
“*of him will much be required.* You are now,  
“my dear youth, convinced that the *heart* of  
“every creature is in the hand of the *great*  
“*Creator*; consequently, your late fears were  
“not only unnecessary but injurious to his  
“honor. Let the remembrance of this event  
“prove an important lesson to you thro’ life:  
“but,” added he, “as we have adjusted the  
“business, we will now drop the subject. I  
“imagine you will have no objection to give  
“me your company to Leeds? I have an in-  
“clination to go over thither in the after-  
“noon.”

‘I will attend you, with pleasure, sir,’  
I replied, ‘for I wish to cultivate an intima-  
‘cy with Mr. Clements.’

“And I will venture to pronounce,”  
cried Mr. Bertills, “that you will have real  
“satisfaction in it.----The more both he and  
“Mrs. Clements are known to you, the more  
“highly will you esteem them. I wish, at  
“present, to pay them particular respect and  
“attention; their late unfortunate situation  
“gives them that claim to it which feeling

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“minds

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“minds cannot resist. The humiliating circumstance of having been obliged to submit to receive pecuniary assistance from me, renders it doubly incumbent upon me to convince them, by my conduct, that they are not lessened in my estimation.”

The carriage is ready, and Mr. Bertills is waiting; I must, therefore, conclude.

Yours,

CHARLES MONTGOMERY.

### LETTER XXXIX.

*From the same, to the same.*

~~~~~

FIR-GROVE.

MR. Bertills is retired to rest.----May his slumbers be sweet and undisturbed! But from me every invocation to Morpheus would be in vain till I have disburthened my mind by communicating to you the intelligence I heard at Leeds.

Poor



Poor Wilkins, who married Fanny Elwood, and who was generally supposed rich, is now in a situation which has stripped off the mask and convinced the world that he married her with a view to make his affairs easy, by means of the thousand pounds it was thought she possessed; but which, on his enquiring for it a few days after their marriage, she, with all the rage of a disappointed woman, and all the effrontery of hardened impudence, avowed having lost the *whole* of one night at a gaming table in London. Thus, disappointed of his *dernier* resource, he was, in a very few days afterwards, obliged to become a bankrupt, and his wife has, it seems, decamped no one knows whither. The sale of his effects commenced yesterday. Mrs. Clements had accompanied some ladies to it; where being tempted by the sight of a very curious little India cabinet, she became the purchaser, and it was brought home while Mr. Bertills and I were there. It was immediately opened; and, in examining it closely, we found one of the drawers obstructed in its passage by something. I presently discovered that the obstruction proceeded

ed from some papers that had been left in the inside; and, on taking them out, they proved to be two letters addressed to Mrs. Wilkins. The signatures struck me. I had often heard her mention the names of the writers as her intimate friends, and was therefore curious to know what was the subject of their correspondence. I was looking over them when Mr. Bertills cried out,

“ Charles, you have got something that  
“ seems to engage your attention closely; of  
“ course, it must be very pleasing.---Be so  
“ obliging as to read aloud, that we may be  
“ all equally entertained.”

I did as desired, and then put the letters in my pocket for the purpose of enclosing them to you.----The perusal rather surprised me, as I really did not expect such letters would be the production of any of her acquaintance. Good night.

CHARLES MONTGOMERY.

LETTER

## LETTER XL.

*Mrs. Fleetwood to Mrs. Wilkins.*

(Inclosed in the preceding.)

Madam,

ACCIDENT threw in my way your last letter to Miss Matthews, my niece. The perusal of it shocked me beyond expression. I was really horror-struck at the reflection of having permitted, nay, even *encouraged* an intimacy and correspondence between you. My beloved Arabella has ever been infinitely dear to my heart, and is the chief solace of my declining years. Her whole conduct, hitherto, has been such as made her appear, to my partial eyes, equal to my most sanguine wishes, and I was happy in the conviction that the pains I had bestowed on the beauteous blossom were not in vain. While ignorant of the duplicity of your character, and the large sacrifices you were making to vicious gratifications, her attachment to you met my warmest  
appro-

approbation. I applauded her choice of a friend, and readily indulged her with the privilege of enjoying, unrestrained, all those delights which flow from the social intercourse of virtuous friendship. You *appeared* amiable; I believed you to *be* so; and considered, that your being a few years her superior in age gave you a degree of influence over her, sufficient to add weight to your sentiments, and the example afforded by your conduct. Thus, I was led to imagine she might be essentially benefited by her intimacy with you. Alas! how have I been deceived in my ideas!

You, Mrs. Wilkins, have endeavoured to counteract all my views for my Arabella, by setting a *vicious* example before her, and artfully striving to seduce her into the paths of infamy and destruction. But, I thank heaven, my eyes are opened, before it is too late, to shew her the danger and disgrace of continuing to hold any farther intercourse with you. I humbly trust the dear girl's mind is yet uncontaminated; her principles yet unperverted.-----Her candor assures



assures me of it; she deeply regrets her former acquaintance with you.-----She *blushes* for it; and promises to detach herself from you entirely. I am persuaded she will stedfastly adhere to this resolution, and I shall yet behold my Arabella as the darling of my fond heart, and the ornament of her sex.

She has informed me of all she knows relative to your past conduct, and confirmed her account by the undeniable testimony of your own letters. The whole is too bad for me to descant upon.-----What is past cannot be recalled; but it may be in a great measure atoned for and expiated by the course you have it henceforth in your power to pursue. Let me, therefore, as a friend, who would rejoice to hear of your being restored to the paths of peace and happiness, advise you to consider well what you are about, and the extent of the *sacrifice* you are making to vicious splendor. It is no less than innate comfort and felicity in *this* world, and all solid expectation of eternal bliss in *the world to come*.

You

You allow that heaven itself is against you ; depend upon it *it is*, and ever will be, while you continue in your guilty career.-----Stop, then, in time ; you are yet a very young woman, and may be spared many years.

Your happiness, during the rest of your life, depends, in a great measure, upon yourself ; do not throw away all prospect of attaining to it. The fertility of your invention has, hitherto, been employed in planning schemes prejudicial to others, and dishonorable and destructive to yourself : the Almighty has seen fit, in his wisdom, to frustrate those which appeared, to you, to be most advantageous ; look upon these disappointments as so many warnings to you to avert, by penitence and prayer, that wrath you have so justly incurred. Reflect a little on your present situation ;-----you have voluntarily entered into the most sacred of all earthly connections, and taken upon you the honorable character of a *wife* : endeavour to discharge the duties of that state ; be a *virtuous wife* ; try to conciliate the affections of your husband by every attempt to alleviate his distress. You would  
have

have expected to share his prosperity; submit, then, with patience, to share with him in his adversity.----But, you say, he has *deceived* you:----is *deception* an unpardonable crime in *your* eyes? if so, how can you acquit yourself? Does not conscience remind you how very grossly you have deceived Mr. Wilkins in *every* respect, but particularly in *one*,---one, too, which touches a man of delicacy and sentiment more nearly than any thing else could do? Happily, however, he is, I suppose, still ignorant of this circumstance; let him, if possible, remain so. But *you* would do well to remember, that it takes from you all just right to resent, or even to utter a single complaint, on the score of *deception*.

If the *foregoing advice* is not thought worthy your attention, let me beg you will not withhold it from that which I am now going to give, upon another subject. You have already injured Mr. Wilkins; do not then suffer your care for yourself to lead you into an action that may injure him still more at this critical period, by fixing marks of dishonesty on his character, and, thereby, depriving him

of all hopes of future kindness from his creditors. It is he who must be accountable to them, and if you act unjustly the disgrace will reflect upon him alone, however innocently, because they will suppose you have acted with his concurrence, if not by his direction. If you will not remain with him, do not resolve to be the *total ruin* of him; for this must inevitably be the consequence if it is hereafter discovered that any *part* of his property has been secreted from those who have both a *legal* and an *equitable* claim upon the *whole*. You cannot have *any* claim; you brought him nothing; and, admitting you had given him a fortune, still it would have been the just right of his creditors. These were the dictates of *my* conscience, Mrs. Wilkins, in *similar* circumstances; and one of the highest pleasures I have since known, has arisen from the reflection of having implicitly obeyed those dictates.

I had been but a few years married, when a train of unavoidable misfortunes necessitated Mr. Fleetwood to submit to a bankruptcy; and, tho' I brought him a large fortune, yet,

as



as no part of it had been settled upon myself, it became, of course, the property of his creditors. I expressed no regrets; no reproaches of my husband mingled with my grief. I submitted patiently; and, with readiness, resigned all my jewels, with every thing of value I possessed,----contrary to the persuasions of several persons, who *too* zealous for my interest, urged me to measures they would not, I am convinced, have adopted themselves. I allowed the kindness of their motives, but still persevered in the path of rectitude; nor had I ever the least reason to repent. I became the object of general concern; my jewels and trinkets were restored to me; and a sum of money immediately raised to put Mr. Fleetwood again in business. Success attended every step we took; and, in a few years, he made up the deficiency to all his creditors, and, at his decease, left me an ample fortune, acquired by his industry. Let this encourage you to merit the applause of your own heart, and the hearts of others, by acting uprightly. I sincerely wish you well, and shall think my trouble well compensated, if any thing I have writ-

ten

ten should be sufficiently effectual to conduce to the promoting of your best interests.

Suffer me once more to remind you, that you stand on a dangerous precipice----on the very brink of perdition ;----you cannot draw back too soon.----Shun, I conjure you, shun the paths of vice ; they will only lead you to misery and everlasting destruction. Arabella and you must meet no more upon earth ; but, that you may meet each other in heaven is the fervent wish of,

madam,

your humble servant,

*SUSANNA FLEETWOOD.*

## LETTER XLI.

*Miss Matthews, to Mrs. Wilkins.*

Madam,

MY aunt has just brought me her letter to enclose to you.-----I have perused it, and find she has rendered it almost unnecessary for me to make any addition to it: but, lest you should do me the injustice to suppose I am acting only by compulsion, I cannot omit telling you, that every sentence she has written, meets my warmest approbation. Our friendship, if it can be called so, where there is no congeniality of mind to cement the union, has, for a long time past, been a source of disquiet to me. Tho' I wanted *strength of mind* to break the attachment, and *courage* to avow my abhorrence of your principles and conduct, *bints* have been passed over with ridicule or inattention, and a false delicacy prevented my going farther.

The

The *resolution* I have formed of relinquishing all intercourse with you, relieves my spirits from the painful weight which has long oppressed them. I intend, firmly to adhere to it. Henceforth, I will endeavour to copy the bright example my aunt's conduct sets before me. I will form no friendships, no connections of any kind, that are not founded on the basis of virtue.----I can then have no reason to blush in secret, for the sentiments of a correspondent. I had hoped, alas ! how vainly ! that the conjugal tie would have been a means of reforming both your principles and manners ; I am concerned at finding myself mistaken, since only *that* reformation could have restored you to my *esteem*, which has long ceased.

To assure you, however, that the apparent alteration in *me* does not, in the least degree, proceed from the alteration in your circumstances, I add, with the permission of my aunt, that we will either of us be ready, at any time, to render you pecuniary assistances, if you will apply them to *virtuous* purposes.---- But upon this subject you must address *her* ;  
for



for *I* will not open any more letters with your hand writing on the superscription. Yet, believe me, I feel for you inexpressibly. God grant that this last afflictive stroke may be the means of bringing you to repentance! and then it will eventually be productive of your happiness. Farewell.

ARABELLA MATTHEWS.

P. S. I have opened the packet again to inform you that Nurse has been here, overwhelmed with sorrow for the loss of your child. She desired me to tell you, the poor thing was this morning in perfect health, playing upon the floor with *her* little ones, and laughing very heartily; when he was suddenly attacked by a convulsion fit, in which he expired before any assistance could be obtained. She had dispatched a messenger to the Major with the intelligence.

LETTER

## LETTER XLII.

*Charles Montgomery, Esq. to the Hon. Augustus Fitzmaurice,*

\*\*\*\*\*

SCARBOROUGH.

IN writing to you, Augustus, I seem to be performing a work of supererogation; you have not desired it, and possibly may not attend to it. Engaged, thus happily, in the company of your beloved Harriet, *inferior* pleasures are only interruptions; yet, I claim the privilege of friendship; and, while I communicate my pleasures and my pains, let them both meet your participation.

At the request of Mr. Bertills, I accompanied him hither, a few days after I wrote last to Sir Edward. Mr. and Mrs. Clements came with us, and prove an agreeable addition to our society. The sight of them afforded a most agreeable surprise to Miss Bertills, who thinks the company of the latter some compensation for the disappointment which Miss Melworth's

Melworth's departure from England occasioned her to feel.

Your old favorite, the Duke of —, is much with us ; and, sometimes, affords a fund of entertainment ; because, when we cannot laugh *with* him, we can laugh *at* him. Mr. Bertills indeed does not often do either ; for the Duke's folly disgusts and makes him rather pettish. His Grace no sooner hears a name mentioned, than he gives you the family pedigree, and lengthens it by relating the history of every branch that has sprouted from the trunk. The first evening he was with us, he traced the ancestors of Clements so far back that he was struck dumb with amazement at finding he was descended from such an *ancient* family. He was beginning with *Mrs.* Clements, but was happily interrupted in the middle by her great great uncle, Owen Fitzowen, who fell in the service of his country, and the account of his last battle, which the Duke interspersed with the history of several other officers engaged in it, carried him so far away from the original intention of his discourse, that he left us in ignorance of the *age* of her house,

house, in which we are likely to remain, as the Duke and Dutchess leave this place to-day.

Scarborough is full of fine women, but I am proof against all their charms. Instead of being fascinated by their fine eyes, &c. I look at them, not with indifference but displeasure, at observing how very much they are wrapped up in themselves, and how secure of conquest at every glance; while Rhoda Bertills, conscious of her deficiency in point of beauty, has taken pains by her intellectual attainments to render herself lovely without it; and, tho' almost irresistibly attractive, shrinks back from the general admiration she involuntarily excites by her elegant accomplishments, and the amiable qualities of her heart. She is most amazingly improved within the last two years, nor do *I* think her *less* handsome, notwithstanding what her father says; but her charms will be infinitely more *durable* than beauty. *Entre nous*, Augustus, I am in some fear for my heart; it seems much inclined to take up its residence in the bosom of Rhoda; but I must call the wanderer back before it is too late.----I now see I have done wrong. Un-  
suspecting



suspecting of *danger* from any source but *personal* attractions, I have been wholly unguarded against its approach. Finding the dear girl's manners and conversation inexpressibly delightful, under the privilege of being related I have indulged in the frequent enjoyment of her company, till I feel myself, when *out* of it, truly uncomfortable, *restless, absent, and dejected*. As a convincing proof of this, Mr. Bertills has more than once enquired what was the matter with me, and expressed his concern for the loss of my spirits. I believe, Fitzmaurice, I must, tho' it will be attended with infinite reluctance, tear myself from this darling object, or my wound will shortly be incurable.

Oh ! how deeply do I now feel the reproachful sting of illegitimacy ! since, but for that circumstance, I might enjoy the flattering hope of being accepted. The behavior of Miss Bertills would not *discourage* it ; she converses with me with an easy, polite freedom, and appears happy in my company ; but this may, perhaps, proceed only from her having ever considered me as her *cousin*, which  
is

is the appellation she generally gives me. I dare not allow myself to suppose it proceeds from any other cause. Her father behaves to me in the same manner; yet it would be unreasonable to imagine he would permit his daughter, whose birth, fortune, and accomplishments entitle her to an alliance with families of rank, to marry a man who can claim an alliance to no family upon earth! No; it cannot, it will not be! nor will I endure the mortification of a refusal. I shall, therefore, in a short time, feign some excuse, and depart suddenly to Fir-grove; there reflection, aided by philosophy, must assist my efforts to gain a conquest over my passions. Should these prove ineffectual I think I shall make the tour of France and Italy; and, of course, see you in my way; mean time,

I am yours,

CHARLES MONTGOMERY.

LETTER

## LETTER XLIII.

*Sir Edward Melworth, to Charles Montgomery, Esq.*

CHATEAU DE RIVIERES.

**T**HE account Augustus Fitzmaurice gave me of Mr. Bertills was such as confirmed my own ideas of him, and made me quit England, and leave you in his power, with perfect satisfaction; or be assured, I had not departed without giving you some substantial proof of my esteem and friendship. I rejoice to find, by your letters, that I was not mistaken in my opinion, and that I may now congratulate you on an accession to your *natural* right. May you, my dear Charles, use your fortune as your father did! He displayed a benevolence of disposition which made all around him happy; and I can have no doubt of your doing the same, as I know nothing in which your disposition and sentiments differ from his, except a certain degree of rashness in forming  
your

your judgment of men and things : but time and experience will correct that, and their efforts will be aided by your readiness to yield to conviction. You have already seen your error in many instances, and with candor condemn yourself. I imagine you have now discarded all narrow prejudices against citizens and traders ; and, in future, will judge of persons only by their sentiments and conduct.

I have reason to apologize for not writing to you sooner, but I have really had no leisure ; and indeed *you* forbade my doing it often, by extorting from me a promise not to habituate myself frequently, or for any length of time, to sedentary amusements, till my health was restored. I remind you of this, Charles, lest you should think me unkind ; however, I have the pleasure to tell you, I am much better ; and, perhaps, I owe it in a great measure to your advice in this respect, as I have kept my word with you tho' it has often been a great piece of self-denial to me : but it is a maxim of mine that every man should hold a promise sacred even in the most trivial concerns of life.

We



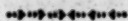
We had very stormy weather from Dover to Calais. The packet had just sailed out of the harbour when the wind shifted against us; which made the voyage both unpleasant and tedious. Mrs. Horton and Harriet were extremely sick. I paid all *my* attention to the *former*, which gave Fitzmaurice an opportunity to display his gallantry by assiduities about the *latter*. As I was not troubled with sickness, I was at leisure to make my observations upon him, and was not a little diverted at seeing the difficult situation he was thrown into. Not all his love, combined with his solicitude for the object of it, could chace away his own sickness. He struggled against it a long time; nor did his assiduities slacken, till, unable to speak or move, he was obliged to submit to relinquish his post to me, and suffer himself to be put to bed, from whence he was incapable of rising till we made Calais. He then dressed, with alacrity, and as soon as we were safe on shore his usual vivacity returned, and has not forsaken him since. Augustus, without the least duplicity of character, possesses the happy art of accomodating himself

self to the company he is with; and, by his engaging qualities, renders himself the very life of the whole set. I know not how he manages, but he makes every person satisfied with themselves; and this you must allow is a never failing recipe to win all hearts. After saying thus much, you will not be at all surprised to hear that poor Harriet is in danger of a rival, and a very formidable one too, for she has *birth, beauty, and fortune*. The lady I mean is Mademoiselle de Cherville, niece to the Marchionesse de Rivieres, and a ward of the Marquess, to whose eldest son she is, by mutual consent, contracted. At present, he is in the imperial army engaged in the war with the Turks; which rendering his life precarious, it is likely Mademoiselle may think it necessary to provide against such a contingency, by securing one of equal rank and fortune, to supply his place in her heart. She certainly takes infinite pains to engage the attention of Augustus; but he has too much honor to amuse himself by trifling with her; therefore, as *she* advances *he* retires, and I sometimes fear that his politeness to her will retire too. I  
should

should feel concern for her, if I had not sufficient penetration to perceive she is not of a constitution to *suffer* much from the tender passion.

The Marquess and Marchioness are a most amiable pair; happy in each other, and diffusing general joy thro' the hearts of all connected with them. Mr. Watson is quite at home here; he is indeed under infinite obligation for their kindness towards him: they express no *less* to him for *his* company and *ours*.---They propose to us to winter at Nice, for the benefit of my uncle's health, whither they will accompany us; and, in the ensuing spring, return with us to Melworth-hall.-----No objection having yet been made to this plan, I suppose it will be adopted.

Augustus has just entered my apartment, with a letter from you in his hand, triumphing in the idea of your being again caught in the soft toils of Cupid. He is too much engaged to write, but desires me to add, that you have described the *right* symptoms, and you may now struggle for ever, you will not be able to disentangle yourself; in which opinion I con-



cur, and, therefore, it is my advice to you, Charles, to lay aside all apprehensions of a refusal on account of your birth; Mr. Bertills is convincing you, by every action of his life, that his sentiments deviate from those of common minds. In this instance, I will venture, without any supernatural assistance, to predict, you will meet no repulse from either him or Miss Bertills. Remember, my predictions in your affairs have proved right hitherto; let that encourage you to make a declaration instead of withdrawing from their society. *This* attachment is founded on the basis of esteem; and, depend upon it, it will be crowned with success.----That it *may*, is the warm wish of

yours, sincerely,

EDWARD MELWORTH.

P. S. Harriet requests you will deliver the enclosed\* to Miss Bertills.

\* The insertion omitted as unnecessary.



## LETTER XLIV.

*Miss Bertills to Miss Melworth.*

SCARBOROUGH.

**Y**OUR description of your voyage, my dear Harriet, made me shudder. Possibly, as you observe, your fears, and your inexperience of the sea, might magnify the danger; but, if you have painted from nature, the scene must, I think, appear very tremendous to any person. Heaven be thanked, you escaped in safety! I shall be glad when you are returned to England, for my mind will not be thoroughly at ease till then.-----The period of our meeting seems now fixed at a painful distance, and I am, consequently, again much disappointed at being obliged to renounce all expectation of seeing you the ensuing winter in Chatham-place.

I have heard and read much of the salubrity of the air of Nice, which I hope will be proved

proved by the restoration of the health of those so justly dear to you as Sir Edward and Mr. Watson ; the satisfaction you will derive from that circumstance will enter into my heart, since my affection leads me to divide with you equally your *joys* and *sorrows* : may it be long ere you experience the latter !

Our party here is quite broken up ; the most pleasing part of our society have left us---my father and my cousin Charles. The former left us yesterday morning ; an occurrence in business obliged his head clerk to dispatch an express for him. Before his departure, it was agreed that I should spend a month with Mr. and Mrs. Clements, at their house at Leeds, for which place we set off to-morrow. They, in return, are to accompany me to London, and stay a few weeks. Lord and Lady Castleton are still here, and purpose staying another month, after which they intend going over to the Continent for the winter.

It is peculiarly unfortunate to me, Harriet, that you are at such a distance ; I want you to aid me in developing the motives of Charles Montgomery's behavior towards me.

I know not what construction to put upon it. He is, undoubtedly, a most pleasing, sensible, well-bred young man; but he has certainly some very odd unaccountable humors, which I am wholly at a loss to understand. He came hither with my father in great spirits, and remained upwards of three weeks in a disposition perfectly agreeable. He assiduously sought my company; took pains, by every method he could devise, to appear to me in the most pleasing point of view; evidently gave me the preference to all the rest of my sex in this part; and, in short, appeared so desirous of engaging *my* affections, that I made little doubt of being myself in possession of *his*. Having no reason to apprehend any objection being made by my father, and at the same time feeling a strong attachment to Charles, I scrupled not to conduct myself so as to convince him I was not displeased with his attentions; on the contrary, I gave him every mark of preference, consistent with female delicacy, and this distinction he seemed delighted with. Judge, then, my dear friend, what must be my surprise to find his behavior, without

without any visible cause, suddenly changed; he shunned my presence; and when *obliged* to be in it, was grave and reserved. After passing a few days in this way, he pretended some pressing occasion to return to Fir-grove, and in that humor departed.----My father, who makes it a rule never to lay any person under a restraint, made no effort to detain him longer; but as soon as Charles was gone, burst into a laugh, exclaiming,

“Bravo! bravo! Montgomery, this is  
“carrying it off finely! but, trust me, my  
“boy, it won’t do: you are fairly caught;  
“and, like a bird in a cage, may flutter your  
“wings till you are weary, without being able  
“to set yourself free.”

‘My dear sir,’ cried I, ‘I am really as  
‘much at a loss to comprehend *your* mean-  
‘ing, as I am to comprehend the behavior of  
‘my cousin Charles.----He seems greatly al-  
‘tered, and I am wholly unable to account for  
‘the *cause* of the alteration.’

“*That* will not do neither, Rhoda;”----  
returned my father, with an arch smile,----  
“you cannot make me believe you so very  
“ignorant



“ignorant as not to perceive that the young man is, at present, troubled with a fit of *jealousy*.”

‘It is utterly impossible, sir,’ replied I, ‘that he should be *jealous*, since he has not had the slightest foundation to ground it upon.’

“An honest confession, however, Rhoda,” said my father, “and I readily give you credit for it. I well know you are superior to the little paltry airs of a coquet, but such impetuous sparks as Charles Montgomery are often *jealous without* cause. But he will come about again shortly; now he is left to himself, the fit will work off in a few days. Take my advice, my dear, and be under no concern at it.”

This advice, Harriet, I have in vain endeavoured to observe, for I find it impossible to throw the affair from my thoughts. In a little time, I suppose, I shall have an explanation, as Montgomery is beginning to come round.——Your letter came to me to day, enclosed in one from *him*, dictated in polite and rather affectionate terms. He requests to be informed

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informed what stay we intend making here; adding, that if we do not depart in a few days, he will come over and join us, as he cannot bear the idea of passing another week without seeing us.---Strange being! is he not, Harriet? As the laws of good breeding render a reply necessary, I must write to him to-night; for which purpose, I will now take my leave of you, after assuring you that I am your very

affectionate friend,

RHODA BERTILLS.

### LETTER XLV.

*Charles Montgomery, Esq. to Sir Edward Melworth.*

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CHATHAM-PLACE.

MY past engagements, my friend, will, I know, successfully plead my apology in your breast for this long, *very* long silence; I will therefore lay them before you. In pursuance of the measures I had planned, to effect a conquest

quest over my tender attachment to Miss Bertills, I returned to Fir-grove a few days after I had written to Augustus. When there, I revolved my conduct again and again, and was much dissatisfied with myself for leaving Scarborough so abruptly. Every plea suggested by *prudence* was ineffectual to restore me to peace. I was conscious of having, in appearance, been guilty of ingratitude, where I owed the highest obligation. The thought distressed me beyond expression, and added considerably to the misery I felt, in contrasting my solitary situation with the happiness I had so lately enjoyed in the converse of my beloved Rhoda. In vain did I strive to combat my *feelings* with philosophy; they were too powerful; and the result of every effort was an increase of wretchedness. Thus perplexed, I knew not what course to take, till the arrival of your friendly letter once more raised my hopes; and, tho' in direct opposition to the opinion my fears had formed, I determined to adopt your advice. It concurred, indeed, too strongly with my wishes to leave me the power of resisting, for a moment, my propensity to

follow it. Shame for the folly I had discovered, now rose, and opposed my inclination for going again to Scarborough without first announcing my intention by a letter. I therefore enclosed that from Miss Melworth in one from myself to Miss Bertills. She favored me with an early reply, informing me, that Mr. Bertills was gone home; and that she was going the next day with Mr. and Mrs. Clements to spend a month at Leeds. You will not doubt but I flew thither on the wings of love to meet her; she received me with her accustomed cordiality, and I experienced a return of happiness. Availing myself of a polite and friendly invitation from Mr. Clements to visit them frequently, I let not a day pass without seeing them; yet still I wanted courage to avow my sentiments to the lovely girl: for every time I attempted to speak upon the subject, the idea of my unfortunate birth suggested itself immediately, and locked up all the powers of articulation. In this way I went on, hoping and despairing, till the last week of her stay at Leeds, when I received from Mr. Bertills the following letter.

“ Dear



“ Dear Charles,

I learn, by letters from Rhoda, the pleasing intelligence that you are perfectly recovered from that *alarming* disorder which occasioned your hasty departure from Scarborough. It gives me great satisfaction; as I really could not avoid feeling much concern for you, and particularly as I was apprehensive you were not sufficiently acquainted with the nature of your disease to apply the proper remedy, or even to think it necessary to solicit the advice of any amongst the skilful in those cases. Upon the *first* approach of a dangerous disorder, the best assistance should be called in; as yours is rather of a dangerous kind, I would advise you not to neglect it lest it becomes habitual, and, in time, tends to make your existence almost insupportable. I know nothing of the complaint from experience, having never yet been troubled with it, and am now I think past the time of life to dread such a kind of an attack; but I have known many who have labored under it for a series of years, and been worn to a shadow,

shadow, without using any proper means of recovery, because ignorant of the *source* from whence their malady sprang; while the symptoms discovered it to every discerning eye. I know not by what name the faculty would distinguish this disease, but, for my own part, I think it may be justly termed a species of the *bile*, since it is apt to make the patient very choleric, and generally, at each attack, produces the jaundice in a greater or less degree, as is easily perceived from the sallow hue in which every thing appears to the patient: as the reflection of his eye discolours, to his imagination, every object it fixes on. Sometimes the complaint gets to such a height as to imbitter all his comforts, by throwing a shade of black over his brightest prospects. When it arrives at this stage the consequence is to be dreaded, as it then wears the *appearance* of insanity, and is not many degrees removed from the *reality*. I would, therefore, my dear Charles, caution you to take care in time that you may not fall a sacrifice to so cruel a distemper.

I expect our good friends Mr. and Mrs. Clements will bring my beloved daughter home next week. If you should not be unfortunately attacked with a return of your late complaint previous to their setting out on the journey, I shall hope for the pleasure of seeing you with them. The air of the metropolis will be useful to you; and if your *mental* faculties should be again a little *deranged*, I will undertake your cure. I have another motive too for desiring your company. I shall have employment for you; not in my counting-house, for *that* would not suit your taste, and you would only do mischief there: I mean to place you in your proper sphere, in which every person appears to most advantage. Therefore, you shall attend the ladies in the *forenoons* to the various shops; mercers, mantua-makers, milliners, trimming-makers, perfumers, jewellers, &c. &c. &c. They *must* have a male attendant, and you are much better qualified for the *office* than either Clements or myself; it would not suit *us*, neither should we be any judges of the articles to be *viewed*;

I

I omit saying *purchased*, because that is not always the motive for shopping. In the evenings, you shall attend them to the places of public amusement; and if, by chance, you fix upon one that may with propriety be termed *rational*, we will give you our company, if we have nothing more material to do. But while I continue in business I shall always make amusement give place to that.

Tell Rhoda that the ship I feared was lost is arrived safe, and Captain Gillam's wife, to whom I bore the welcome intelligence, almost overcame me with her demonstrations of unaffected joy, and pious gratitude to heaven. Gillam is an excellent captain, and has studied my interest as much as his own ever since he has been in my employ; but I am determined he shall not go out again for *me*. His good woman, I am certain, suffers extreme tortures in his absence, from her ideas of the dangers he is exposed to; therefore something else must be thought of to enable him to live upon terra firma; I have no notion of filling my coffers at the heavy expence of another's peace.



I shall expect to see you all to dinner, on  
Saturday, till when,

I am

dear Charles,

yours, affectionately,

*PHILIP BERTILLS.*

P. S. If you think the first part of my  
letter needs explanation, ask your cousin for  
it; she can give you one if she pleases."

After reading the foregoing several times,  
without being able to comprehend its mean-  
ing clearly, the hint in the postscript struck  
me; and, ordering the horses, I went imme-  
diately over to Leeds, where I was so fortunate  
as to find Miss Bertills alone in the parlour.  
The usual compliments having passed, I put  
the letter from her father into her hand; and,  
while she was perusing it, I went towards a  
window, where I stood examining her counte-  
nance attentively, to see if I could gather any  
thing like explanation from thence. I ob-  
served that the color rose into her face and  
neck,

neck, tho' she could not avoid laughing to herself, which I would not appear to notice. When reading the postscript, I perceived a visible confusion overspread her countenance. ---This she in vain strove to hide; returning the letter to me, she said,

"It gives me infinite pleasure to learn  
"that Captain Gillam is arrived in safety; he  
"is a worthy man, and his lady, Mrs. Gillam,  
"has long possessed my esteem; she is really  
"an amiable -----"

'Pardon me, my dear Miss Bertills,' cried I, 'for presuming to interrupt you; any  
'other time I shall be ready to participate with  
'you in the happiness of your friends, but  
'permit me now to indulge in the gratifica-  
'tion of my own curiosity. Did you, madam,  
'observe the postscript of Mr. Bertills's let-  
'ter?'

"Yes, sir, I believe,"---returned she, hesitatingly,---"I think I did read it---but  
"---but I saw nothing---I mean---noth-  
"ing *very particular* in it."

'Do give me leave,' resumed I, 'to read  
'it over to you.'

"Oh,

"Oh, no! by no means;"---cried she, eagerly,---"it is quite unnecessary indeed."

'Your *manner* of answering, madam,' said I, 'convinces me of that; I will, therefore, only intreat you will favor me with the explanation, which I understand you are so well qualified to give.'

"My father was mistaken, indeed, sir," she replied, "I really am not *properly* qualified for it; not at present however: besides, it is time for me to dress. I wonder where Mrs. Clements is?---I do not like to leave you alone." Then rising from her seat, she added, "I'll ring for a servant to inform her you are here, for 'if I do not go up to dress I shall not be fit to appear at the dinner table."

Before she could get to the bell, I arose, and, taking her hand, led her back to her seat, saying,

'Permit me, Miss Bertills, to take the liberty of turning you from your purpose a little; your dress *needs* no alteration; you are, at this moment, fit to grace the most splendid circle; therefore, let not so trivial a circumstance

‘ cumstance separate us before you have granted my request: I am very sensible it is in your *power* to do it.’

After a short silence, she collected her scattered spirits, and replied, with an air of dignity,

“ To be ingenuous with you, Mr. Montgomery, I will allow that it *is* in my power, but *you* must *first* account for the real cause of your sudden departure from Scarborough, and for the very visible alteration in your behaviour preceding it; for the *propriety* of my granting your request depends upon the *reason* you alledge.----My father put his own construction upon that part of your conduct; *possibly*, it might not be a *just* one.”

You now see, Edward, that the moment I had so long and so ardently desired was come; and yet, fool that I was! I felt inexpressibly afraid of seizing the opportunity, favorable as it appeared.----Conscious of having gone too far to recede, I at length said,

‘ If I dared, I would tell you, Miss Bertills, that the terms you exact are extremely  
‘ hard.---



‘hard.----I am necessitated to comply with  
‘them, and in doing so you know not how  
‘great is my risk.’

“Of being thought capricious I suppose,”---resumed she, with quickness,---  
“but, perhaps, a candid confession may be  
“deemed a sufficient attonement.----Yet, do  
“not mistake me, Mr. Montgomery, I by no  
“means wish to persuade you to any thing  
“that may be in the least disagreeable  
“to you; allow *me* only the privilege *you*  
“claim of mental reservation, and the subject  
“drops.”

‘I *renounce* the claim, my dear madam;’  
cried I, ‘I will have no reserves with you; nor  
‘do I dread being thought *capricious*; for I  
‘can assure you, upon my honor, that caprice  
‘has had no share in my conduct; I only fear  
‘your displeasure.----Promise me not to be  
‘offended with my presumption---not to ban-  
‘ish me from your sight---but to grant me  
‘the continuance of your friendship, and the  
‘happiness of sometimes conversing with you  
‘as a relation, and I will readily account for  
‘the cause which produced an effect more  
‘painful

‘painful to me than I can express. Oh! my  
‘father!’ I added, ‘it would be impious in me  
‘to reflect upon your much-loved memory;  
‘but I cannot help regretting *that* error in  
‘your conduct which----”

She hastily interrupted me.----“ Mr.  
“Montgomery, I must hear no more upon this  
“subject; your father’s sufferings for an in-  
“voluntary deviation from virtue, should ob-  
“literate for ever the only instance which the  
“record of his life could, I believe, produce of  
“a crime. You are not in any respect in-  
“jured by it; consequently, you have no right  
“to speak of it with reproach to his memory.”

‘You know not,’ cried I, ‘the agonizing  
‘pang which I endured at the moment I ut-  
‘tered that apostrophe.---I confess my fault,  
‘and the justice of your remark. I have not  
‘apparently been injured by it. To the ami-  
‘able benevolence of your excellent parent I  
‘owe all that even a legitimate heir would  
‘have had a right to claim; but there is yet a  
‘gift in his power to bestow, without which I  
‘must be completely wretched; a gift too of  
‘such inestimable value; I hardly dare in-  
‘dulge

‘dulge a hope, considering that disgraceful  
‘circumstance I before mentioned.’

I paused a few minutes ; she made no reply ; and, as I perceived nothing repelling in her countenance, I at length ventured to proceed, till I had clearly acquainted her with the true situation of my heart. I saw encouraging tokens in her eyes, which her tongue modestly confirmed. O how unlike Fanny Elwood ! Before we separated, I gained an explanation of the letter from Mr. Bertills. He had painted *jealousy*, tho’ I knew not the portrait. This, however, was fresh encouragement, and I went home to answer his letter, in a state of felicity beyond any I had ever before experienced. We set off for London in a few days after, and Mr. Bertills and I soon came to a right understanding. I am now, Edward, looking forward to a most delightful prospect. ---I hope I shall not experience such a dreadful disappointment as my dear father met with in similar circumstances, when he had almost arrived at the summit of his hopes. But I will not dwell upon so melancholy a theme.---Indeed such a thought never intrudes when I am

in company with my Rhoda, and I am very seldom out of it. Mr. Bertills adheres to the plan he laid down for me; I am the ladies' attendant upon all their excursions both of pleasure and business. He and Mr. Clements devote themselves chiefly to their commercial affairs.

Since I came to town, I have been frequently in company with Major Herbert, who, this morning, told me, that, a few nights ago, he saw Mrs. Wilkins, once Fanny Elwood, sparkling in a side-box at the Theatre, and had the curiosity to make some enquiry about her; from which he learned that she was the mistress of Lord Hanville, but much dissatisfied with her situation, and in search of a better; nor is that to be wondered at, when we consider his Lordship is neither rich nor generous, and her extravagance requires he should be both. Poor, unhappy, unthinking woman! I cannot help feeling concern at the idea that she will ere long, perhaps, fall a victim to infamy and disease. Adieu.

Yours, sincerely,

CHARLES MONTGOMERY.

LETTER



## LETTER XLVI.

*Miss Melworth, to Miss Bertills.*

NICE.

THERE is always something wanting to make our happiness perfect. I think mine would be so now, could I enjoy your company, Rhoda : yet, perhaps, even then, some other wish ungratified would, as some poetic writer observes, "corrode and leaven all the rest." Be that as it may, I do most ardently long to see and converse with you upon many subjects on which I have not leisure to exercise my pen. The Marchioness almost perpetually engrosses me ; yet, when I say this, I do not mean it as a complaint ; on the contrary, I consider it as a circumstance that does me infinite honor, while her company gives me delight. She is, in reality, a charming woman. She has all the vivacity natural to the climate she was born in, but none of the insincerity. She

She possesses the soul of friendship, blended with all the fine feelings of humanity. An extensive knowledge of books, with an elegant taste for the fine arts, renders her both a very pleasing and a very instructive companion. Her esteem is worth all the pains I can take to cultivate it; for the mind and manners which she condescends to assist in forming, must be extremely defective by nature, if she fails to make them appear amiable by exciting the strongest emulation to reduce to practice every virtue. I think myself peculiarly fortunate in having been introduced to such a woman. I am well convinced it must be my own fault if I do not gain considerable improvement from her conversation.

Never, my dear Rhoda, shall I regret the sufferings I endured on the voyage; since they were only the forerunners of many pleasing events; one of which is the satisfaction of perceiving that my valuable brother is regaining his health and spirits very rapidly, and I now entertain the most sanguine hopes of his perfectly recovering both. The company of his agreeable friend, Mr. Fitzmaurice, contributes

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much to his felicity by readily accomodating himself to all his humors: for whether Sir Edward is disposed to be grave or gay, Mr. Fitzmaurice can render his converse equally pleasing to him.----But the young man had some difficulty to support his usual equanimity of temper, while we were at the Chateau de Rivieres. Mademoiselle de Cherville, niece to the Marchioness, having a very susceptible heart, soon discovered a violent penchant for him, and took much pains to make him sensible of it.----At length she succeeded in that attempt; but he, instead of testifying gratitude for so flattering a distinction, became immediately disgusted; and took every opportunity to avoid her presence, hoping to disgust her equally by his neglect of her advances. It happily had the wished effect. She declined accompanying us hither. The Marchioness, who suffers nothing to escape her observation, approved her conduct in silence, and viewed it as a proof that Mademoiselle's attachment was merely an imaginary one. In this opinion I concur; as I think a solid and lasting affection cannot exist unless founded on virtuous principles:

ciples : and *virtue* and *delicacy* are twin sisters ; too happy in the company of each other to dwell *separately*. When these inhabit the female mind, they infallibly produce that engaging modesty of deportment, which studiously endeavors to hide, from *every* eye, a tender attachment ; but particularly from the object who excites it.

By a letter from Mr. Montgomery, to my brother, I find the former has cleared away the ambiguity of his conduct, at Scarborough, perfectly to your satisfaction. The very wisest amongst us may sometimes be guilty of an error in judgment ; I am glad to be assured that Mr. Bertills, in this instance, erred in his. It was easy, to me, to see that your future happiness was, in a great measure, dependant upon your cousin Charles ; and, in my opinion, his utmost affection could not have counter-balanced the misery which a variableness of temper, proceeding from a jealous habit, would have caused you. But there is no reason to entertain a fear of that sort. The little I have seen of him convinces me he is amiable ; and providence seems to have formed you for each other.



er. May you, my beloved friend, find lasting happiness succeed to your union ! which I expect will take place before we meet. I must now reluctantly take my leave, that I may have time to write to Lady Lucan, who has honored me with several marks of her attention since I left England.

Mrs. Horton esteems herself obliged by your kind remembrance ; she desires you will accept her warmest wishes for your happiness.

I am,

dear Rhoda,

yours, most affectionately.

*HARRIET MELWORTH.*

LETTER,

## LETTER XLVII.

*The Hon. Augustus Fitzmaurice, to Charles Montgomery, Esq.*

\*\*\*\*\*

NICE.

WELL done, my friend! I congratulate you on the fair prospect of happiness now before you. I am glad to find you gained courage at last to avow your sentiments to Miss Bertills. Upon the whole, you have done much better than I expected, considering the great disadvantage you laboured under in not having me at your elbow to inspire you with heroism sufficient for so capital an undertaking; tho' it must be allowed you threw away a vast deal of precious time in conjuring up dangers and difficulties where they had no existence in reality. Edward says, he could have told you a *secret* which would have removed them all in a moment, but from motives of kindness he chose to withhold it; because a lover's greatest pleasures spring out of his

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his pains. When you are married, he will devulge the said secret to you, and not before; when that time arrives, may you and Miss Bertills experience for a long succession of years, the utmost felicity that state affords!

You see, Charles, I have disdained to copy the selfish example you set me, by writing only upon my own affairs, and neglecting to say one word upon yours.-----On the contrary, *I begin* with the subject nearest *your* heart, and, afterwards, proceed to that in which my own is interested; tho' I am to tell you, that I am not wholly without doubts and fears, which sometimes take possession of my bosom, and make me as miserable a dog as ever was created. This tender passion, when it is sincere, makes shocking work with a man. I declare to you, if I were not happily stocked with a tolerable portion of *vanity*, I could never go thro' the *probation* time; that alone enables me to support it. If vanity did not always take care to step in, and, like a good housewife, clear away the trumpery which is scattered up and down over the wide expanse of my mind, and set things perfectly to rights there, I know  
not

not what would become of me; for the moment I am alone the powers of imagination go to work, and present my loved Harriet to my view, decorated with all the numberless beauties of her face, and graces of her person. Whenever this causes any very uneasy apprehensions, I attend to the whispers of my kind monitor, vanity; and take the readiest method to remove them directly, by an accurate survey in a mirror of the various charms centered in my own person. This does the business effectually; how indeed should it fail? But when all the amiable qualities that adorn Miss Melworth's mind and heart appear before me, united in one beautiful mass of perfection, and I am wholly at a loss to find its counter-part in myself; then hope forsakes me, and I remain in a desponding way for the tedious space of five minutes; at length, my ingenuity aids me to *disunite* those amiable qualities, and view each of them separately; they are not then quite so formidable, because I can *here* and *there* find a good quality in myself to match *some* of her's; and as to the *rest*, she is so utterly unconscious of possessing them, that I  
very



very rationally conclude *they* will be no barriers in the way of my preferment. I now take another survey of my person ; my features enlivened by the bright powers of hope, appear additionally pleasing. I omit not to set down the *few* good and agreeable properties I possess, and am, in a short time, fully convinced that the *tout ensemble* must inevitably prove irresistible to a female who has not vanity enough to perceive in herself half the engaging qualities she *must* see in *me*. Thus you see, Charles, the settling of the whole matter in a satisfactory way depends entirely upon the proper assistance of *my* monitor. Who would wish to be without such an attendant that has but common sense to manage it properly ? *I* would not I assure you.

Surely your old acquaintance, Lady Gertrude Carruther, employs some *familiar* in her service to inform her of all the motions of our friend Edward ; for her ladyship is, positively, at Nice at this moment. We met her yesterday morning, accidentally, at the apartments of Sir James Craven ; she took the visit as a mark of respect to herself, and addressed Edward as

a friend with whom she had been long intimate, while he looked more than half ashamed of the recognition; and well he might. When we were seated, her ladyship informed us of what it was undoubtedly very important for us to know; namely, that she had not the least idea of visiting Nice till a week before she set out; when meeting her long esteemed friend, Lady Dunbarty, at Bath, who she found was coming over hither to her brother, Sir James, she agreed to accompany her. "And I am very happy," added she, "that I did, as it has been a means  
"of gratifying my wishes by bringing me a-  
"gain into *your* company, Sir Edward; I was  
"inexpressibly disappointed in not seeing you  
"at Bristol Hot-well; but the view of your  
"countenance, altered so greatly for the better,  
"makes me ample compensation."

Edward bowed, and thanked her, and she resumed the discourse by saying,

"I think myself singularly fortunate in  
"this excursion, as I make no doubt of being  
"happy enough to add to the pleasure both of  
"your party and my own, by introducing each  
"to the other."

"We

“ We are all, without doubt, much obliged by your kind intentions, my lady,”-----cried Sir James, hastily,-----“ but, in that respect, your efforts are not necessary. Sir Edward Melworth’s father and I were school-fellows, at Westminster, where we commenced an intimacy that has been kept up between the families ever since.”

Lady Gertrude looked rather chagrined at this intelligence, as it at once let her see that Sir Edward’s visit was not to her.---However, she recovered presently, and some farther conversation passed, in the course of which she learned that *Miss Melworth* was at Nice ; her ladyship took advantage of this to improve the acquaintance ; and, as we were coming away, she requested my friend to present her *baise-mains* to his sister, and let her know that she would take the earliest opportunity of paying her personal respects to her. As it is not likely that Lady Gertrude will delay the visit, Miss Melworth is every moment in expectation of her, but does not seem at all elevated by the approaching honor. I, however, am likely to be disappointed of the pleasure of playing her off

to advantage, as I had intended, Edward being gone out with the Marquess and Mr. Watson. I believe I have scarce mentioned the latter to you before, but that is of little consequence. I like him prodigiously; he is one of those elderly men, with whom it is impossible to avoid being pleased; he has made us all shudder by his account of the narrow escape he had; it has taken an effect so violent upon his spirits as I fear will hardly ever be conquered. His nephew and niece are tenderly attentive to him, as are the Marquess and Marchioness, to whose humanity he thinks himself a considerable debtor. But I have only room to add,

I am,

yours, sincerely,

AUGUSTUS FITZMAURICE.



## LETTER XLVIII.

*Miss Bertills to Miss Mel-worth.*

CHATHAM-PLACE.

I MAKE no apologies for not writing before, as I am well persuaded you will attribute the omission to its true cause,----want of leisure and not want of friendship. You, my dear Harriet, both know and feel the full force of that attachment; consequently, will not think the proofs consist merely in those little punctilious observances, which may with most propriety be deemed the *fetters of friendship*.

Yesterday I parted with Mr. and Mrs. Clements, who are gone back to Leeds with Mr. Montgomery. You will naturally suppose the separation was rather painful to all parties: indeed it was extremely so to *me*, and I have not been able to raise my spirits since. I am ingenious at tormenting myself with ideal dangers upon the journey.----I say to myself,

Two

Two hundred miles---what a tremendous distance! Roads bad; the waters out, in many places; days, very short; air, piercing cold; damp beds, perhaps; and my poor Charles may get a cold, to which may succeed a fever, or a consumption; or he may be----but I will enumerate no more of the disasters I dread, lest you should be shocked at my evident want of dependance upon him by whose power alone every human being is protected. I feel distressed, when I consider my own ingratitude and weakness in this instance; but I will henceforth commit my beloved Charles to the care of him who cares for all his creatures, and on his protection of him will I rely. Had I seen a *necessity* for his undertaking the journey, at this time, I think I should have submitted to it with more fortitude, from conceiving him to be engaged in an act of duty; but now I consider him as only engaged in the service of *pride*. He is really gone for no other purpose but to set the workmen about repairing and beautifying the good old mansion at the Grove, to make it what he terms a fit habitation to receive its mistress. My father said he saw no alteration

no repairs it wanted, unless I had more ambition than a woman ought to have ; but Charles insisted that in its present state it was not worthy to receive me, therefore, he was not to be turned from his purpose. In all probability he will shortly see how very unnecessary is all his trouble about it, for I am convinced I shall never become the slave of appearances ; consequently, the alterations will not add the least to my happiness.

It is really very strange, Harriet, but it is nevertheless true, for I have made frequent observation of it, that the young men of the present age no sooner settle all the preliminaries previous to their marriage, than they immediately set about modernizing the noble gothic structures reared by their forefathers ; and, in general, strip them of all their ancient grandeur---of every thing that made them venerable ; and, in conforming with fashion and false taste ; when, after an enormous expence, they appear at once despoiled of every beauty. But I hope this will not be the case at Fir-grove : I have petitioned in its behalf.-----It would grieve me to lose the beautiful paintings upon  
the

the cieling of some of the apartments, or the elegant stucco-work on others, together with the carved work on most of the wainscots, and on the balustrades of the great staircase. I know these things are quite out of date, but I am an admirer of them, as well as of the sculptured stone which adorns the outside of the building; and I should be sorry there should be any of it displaced. You will, perhaps, wonder at me for adding, that I like the furniture better than any more modern. The world is at liberty to laugh at my taste; I am not ashamed to confess, that I have a strong predilection in favor of *old* furniture, and *old* servants; if they *are*, or ever *have been* good.--- The *former* I hate to part with, till age makes it totally useless; and the *latter*, I would, if possible, keep till they are called from earth to heaven; and, by my attention to their various infirmities, testify that gratitude which is due to their former faithful services. How often, my Harriet, do we see that making a great figure in life, with respect to *dress, house, furniture, equipage, and a suitable number of servants*, by taking away the ability deprives the really

beney-



benevolent mind of the pleasing satisfaction of performing the necessary duties of humanity, and not seldom reduces persons who are slaves to such an appearance of splendor, so low as to stand in need of that benevolence themselves which a proper degree of caution would have enabled them to extend to others. This reflection brings to my mind a circumstance, which, tho' in very humble life, is in some degree similar.

About three summers ago, I went with Mrs. Herbert to spend a few days at a little villa of the Major's, situated about twenty miles from town. We were one morning walking out together, and passing by a small public-house, neatly fitted up, we saw a poor woman, the mistress of it, sitting near the window of a little room, evidently much distressed. Without stopping to consider of the matter, we went in, and asked the cause. The poor creature soon informed us that the landlord had seized for rent, and all they had belonging to them was not enough to pay him: and she, with her husband, then ill in bed with a fever, together with her three poor little babes, must be turned

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ed out into the road, destitute of a change of apparel, or a penny to buy a bit of bread. One look at her and the little innocents, with the idea of their sick and suffering father, sufficed to determine our conduct. The sum due to the landlord was not very large; we had sufficient about us for the purpose; so we paid it immediately; and received from the woman blessings and thanks in abundance. When the first effusions of her joy and gratitude had a little subsided, Mrs. Herbert said to her,

“ I am greatly surprised to find you reduced to this situation; I have known you by sight a long time, and you always appeared to me to be industrious people, and to be doing very well.”

“ Ah! lack a dasy! madam,” cried the woman, “ and so we *was*, but my poor Joseph was always a little *onprudent* all along; we had once, madam, a pretty snug farm *upo* ‘Squire Grig’s *’state*; but my husband did too much to make the house fine, and then *that there* tied his hands, and made us we could n’t do no more good in ‘t; so the ‘Squire made us quit, and we came to this  
“ here

“ here place, where we was doing very well.  
“ I took a nurse-child that brought us in a  
“ good bit o’ money, and Joseph worked hard  
“ at his trade, while I *tended* customers at  
“ home, and we *begun* to lay up a small mat-  
“ ter ; and, moreover, could give a bit of *wit-*  
“ *tels* to a poor starving body, *now* and *tan*,  
“ and *seem none the poorer for ’t*. And we  
“ should ha’ done very well yet, if Joseph  
“ had n’t a loved a fine house so much ; but,  
“ God bless him ! he does like a bit o’ *genteeli-*  
“ *ty*, and so he thought as how it would *reduce*  
“ customers to come more to us if so be as he  
“ did up the place a bit *neatly*er ; so he white-  
“ washes the walls, and paints the *winders* and  
“ doors, and puts in a bit o’ new furniture  
“ here and there, and so spent all the money  
“ we had laid up ; but that would n’t ha’ *sin-*  
“ *nified* if he ’d done no more, but what was  
“ *worser* nor all, he would make it complete ;  
“ so he had *arterwards* the Goose new painted,  
“ and the chequers at the door ; to be sure I  
“ did *demire* it, for it looked very pretty, that  
“ it did ; but you know, madam, such *great*  
“ doings as *that there* must cost *sommat*, so it  
“ run

“run us a trifle into debt, and then when Joe  
“fell sick a fretting at it, I used to *set down*  
“and cry and think as how no good never  
“comed a making a *show in the world*.---But  
“he did it all for the best, poor man! *How-*  
“*somdever*,” added she, “as you two ladies  
“has been so good to us, we shall do well  
“again, and be bound to pray for you as long  
“as ever we lives.”

The poor woman predicted truly; they have gone on comfortably, it seems, ever since.---Joseph got well, presently; works now at his trade as before; she has got another nurse-child; and they are both as happy as king and queen.---But their story, simple as it is, has a moral in it applicable to the situation of great numbers in this metropolis.

Our dear friend, Louisa Fitzallan, is much with me. Her brother is perfectly recovered, and looks as well as ever. He is still obliged to confine his arm in a sling, but his figure is not less graceful on that account.---He is elegant in every attitude; but he never appears to more advantage than when in company with his sister. The respectful tender-  
ness



ness of his behaviour to her creates universal admiration. He and Charles Montgomery have been quite intimate from their first meeting, and seem to have contracted a solid esteem for each other. I have the pleasure to tell you, that a week ago the family were made happy by the safe arrival of Mr. Fitzallan, of whom I have not now time to give you a description. Suffice it then to say, he possesses those qualities which insensibly engage the heart. He expresses great impatience to pay his personal thanks to Mrs. Martinus, whom he calls the benevolent supporter and protector of his deserted child. To-morrow is fixed on for their visit to C——house. At their united request, I am to accompany them. Indeed, Harriet, I think you judged right about Louisa, for she does not yet seem completely happy, tho' I never notice that to her. However, I do not fear any ill consequence from her attachment. I consider that Sir Edward is a very young man; that *time*, as it blunts the edge of every sorrow, may, in a great measure, efface the fond remembrance of his late lady, and open his heart to receive a second impression, and I know none more

more likely to make it than Louisa; in whose form and features he already traces the resemblance of his Matilda. He was evidently pleased with her conversation. When he returns to England, be it your care to promote his frequent enjoyment of that. You and I are both sensible that she will not please *less* on being better known.---On the contrary, I am much inclined to think she will gradually and imperceptibly steal into his affections, and the happiness of both will be thereby made complete.---So, from this time, I intreat you to let all your concern about her vanish. I rejoice with you in the prospect of your brother's returning health, and ardently wish to see you both, as I do also to see the charming group of friends who surround you, and shall be impatient till you all arrive.

Remember me, affectionately, to good Mrs. Horton.

I am, ever, your sincere friend,

RHODA BERTILLS.

LETTER

## LETTER XLIX.

*Charles Montgomery, Esq. to the Hon. Augustus Fitzmaurice.*

FIR-GROVE.

YOUR recipe, Augustus, may be an excellent one for encouraging hope in a state of probation, as you term it, but thank my good stars, I have no occasion to have recourse to such means, and your recollection might have saved you the trouble of penning it for my advantage, if that was your motive, as I have had the honor to be elected, and have now only to take the vows of allegiance, &c. and my establishment for life is fixed. I left my angelic Rhoda a fortnight ago, and am come hither to give the necessary directions, that all may be in proper order for her reception. In the mean time, the lawyers are set to work in London, drawing up the writings; I therefore flatter myself with the hope of calling her mine shortly after my return to town. The generous,

ous, the noble-minded Mr. Bertills, gives her a most splendid fortune, far superior to my expectations or even my wishes ; but he will not be opposed in it, and all my remonstrances were in vain.

I perceive I have again insensibly fallen into the error you so justly reprov'd me for in your last. I am treating wholly of my own concerns, and neglecting to say a word upon yours. Let me, then, retrieve myself in your good opinion, and rescue my character from the despicable appellation of selfishness, by declaring, that tho' the idea of my amiable Rhoda occupies a large part of my heart, there is still room in it for friendship. I am as strongly interested in your happiness as in my own, and shall rejoice equally in its completion. I firmly believe, Miss Melworth is calculated to make your felicity as perfect as human nature admits of.---She is the bosom friend of my Rhoda, consequently, must be truly good. I sincerely wish you would hasten your return hither, and complete the business. I think, Augustus, you and I shall then be the envy of the whole county ; for our brides will surpass  
all



all the females in it for accomplishments both personal and mental.

Last week, I spent a few days at Westbrook-lodge, and have the pleasure to assure you Lord and Lady Lucan were both well, and earnestly wishing for your return; but not *more* earnestly I believe than *I* wish it. You cannot think, Augustus, what a scene of dullness Firgrove, and, in short, every place in the county, appears to me now; Edward and you are absent. I did not miss either of you half so much when I had Mr. Bertills here, nor afterwards, when Miss Bertills was at Leeds; for, at both those times, their company was a most pleasing resource, and left me not a wish for the enjoyment of any other: but now deprived of *all*, Yorkshire is no longer Yorkshire to *me*. I shall make the utmost haste to leave it, and to facilitate my departure, I must attend closely to what I have to do here; therefore, shall spend no more time upon you than just to add, that your father and I went together to Melvinpark; where, to our surprise, we found the whole family in the utmost confusion and grief mingled with rage; the cause of which was,  
Lady

Lady Bab Stansfield had eloped for Scotland or Paris, they knew not which, with her father's chaplain; who, no doubt, thought *that* the readiest method to obtain a mitre. The pride of the family will secure him one, notwithstanding their present displeasure. Great as it is, it will very soon subside. Not one amongst them is endued with much *stability*; we have seen its want there, in many instances.

Yours, sincerely,

CHARLES MONTGOMERY,

### LETTER L.

*The Hon. Augustus Fitzmaurice, to Charles Montgomery, Esq.*

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NICE.

I CLAIM your congratulations, my friend! Harriet, the lovely Harriet Melworth, condescends to accept my vows! Mr. Watson and Edward express their satisfaction in words and looks;

looks ; and the amiable Marchioness in smiles testifies her approbation ; while the good old Marquess declares he will never give his consent to the match, because he has been, for some months back, wooing her for his second son. You will wonder, Charles, that I have deferred till now, so important a point, as that of declaring my sentiments to her : the reason was, I had really too much diffidence to venture till I could persuade myself that my assiduities had gained her esteem, and made some impression on her heart ; but I believe even vanity's utmost exertions would not have flattered me into the belief that I had yet succeeded far enough to make such an attempt with safety, had I not been thrown off my guard by the visible attention paid to Miss Melworth by a young French nobleman. I could not bear the idea of yielding so valuable a prize without making some resistance, therefore seized a lucky moment, and in hesitating terms, confessed to her my love. The vermilion of unaffected modesty overspread her cheeks, and, at length, in return to my pressing intreaties, I brought the sweet maid to confess, in faltering accents, a preference in my

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favor.-----This was enough to make me half wild with extacy ; but my rapturous gratitude was presently interrupted by Mrs. Horton joining us. To her I related my success, and then flew away, for the same purpose, in search of Sir Edward, who, laughing, said to me,

“ Really, Augustus, I now give you credit for a much larger portion of *modesty* than I thought you had possessed ; since it could be *that* only which prevented your developing the secret of Harriet’s heart long ago.”

‘ Very likely,’ cried I, ‘ but you must allow that the modesty of my love is some sort of security for its constancy, and it tends to heighten my present joys.’

I shall write to acquaint Lord and Lady Lucan of my happiness ;---they will rejoice with me in it. I will endeavour to prevail with our friends here, to hasten their departure to your happy isle. I feel my impatience for the completion of my felicity too strong to admit of any very long delay, and there will be much to be done, when we get to England, before that desirable event can take place.

Lady Gertrude has not yet been able to  
make



make any impression upon the heart of our friend Edward, but she is indefatigable in her attempts upon it; and tho' this speaks not much in favor of her delicacy, yet it establishes her reputation for the elegance of her *taste*. Her ladyship praises the goodness of his constitution; admires his altered looks; and tells him, "he has lost the apology he once had for continuing single; since he may, now, with a good grace, offer his hand to any lady whatever;" adding, "she thinks it next to an *impossibility* he should meet a refusal from any one."

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I was interrupted yesterday and obliged to break off abruptly; but am now returned to tell you how I have just been entertained.

The Duke of —— is now at Nice; he brought the Dutchess over to Aix to visit Lord and Lady Castleton, who have spent the winter there. His Grace staid with them a few weeks, when, hearing that some of his old friends were at Nice, he determined to come hither and join them; and learning, this morning, that I was here he called, *en passant*, to ask after my health.

health. In a few minutes after his entrance, Lady Gertrude Carruther was announced.

"Heaven defend me!"---exclaimed she, as she entered the room,---"I little expected the happiness of meeting your Grace in this part of the globe!---I hope the Dutchess is well?"

"Perfectly so, my lady, when I left her;" replied he, "she is now at Aix, with Lord and Lady Castleton; but," continued his Grace, "I think, Lady Gertrude, *this* is the only spot in the world to meet one's old friends in. It is not half an hour since I met General Hampden; he looks full as young as he did fifteen years ago, when he fought a duel in Hyde-park with Lord Kendrick: it was the most remarkable occurrence in his Lordship's life, I believe, for he was then just upon the point of marriage with the Honourable Miss Wellers; but being confined by the wound he received, near three months, the lady was out of patience, and would wait no longer; therefore, broke off the treaty by giving her hand to Sir Thomas Olney. You know Ferdinand Selby,

“Selby, my lady? he dined with them on the  
“wedding-day, and from him I learned that,  
“before the repast was over, they quarrelled  
“about a grasshopper!”

“Bless me!”---cried Lady Gertrude,  
with an important gravity of aspect,---“that  
“was very extraordinary indeed! I declare I  
“am quite at a loss to guess what they could  
“find out in a grasshopper to occasion any  
“thing of a serious quarrel.”

“Nothing at all, nothing at all, my lady,”  
resumed the Duke, “only whether it should  
“be spelled *with* or *without* an *h*.---But I have  
“known many matrimonial *fracas* founded  
“upon things equally insignificant. I re-  
“member hearing Lord and Lady Mowbray  
“quarrel once about the beauty of Charles  
“Fox; one thought him *handsome*, the other  
“thought him downright *ugly*.----I was ap-  
“pealed to, but who could pretend to deter-  
“mine a difference upon a point of that kind  
“which depended entirely upon the fancy?  
“Tom Wharton thought Charles Fox was---”

“Very true,” interrupted Lady Gertrude,  
“your grace is quite right indeed; it depends  
“entirely

“entirely upon fancy to determine that point.  
“but Lord and Lady Mowbray have none of  
“those considerations; they differ upon every  
“subject that’s started; the *one* never asserts  
“but the *other* is sure to contradict; by which  
“means they render themselves objects of ridicule, tho’ they afford others a fund of entertainment.”

“Ay, ay, their disputes serve well enough  
“to laugh at----well enough to laugh at,” rejoined he, “I have been often diverted with  
“them myself; but unfortunately, they have  
“not so happy an effect upon every person.---  
“Poor Mac-Arthur, for instance, is so highly  
“disgusted by that sort of conversation, he  
“would never go into their company I am  
“certain if he did not depend upon his Lordship for preferment in the church. Apropos, Lady Gertrude,” continued he, “you  
“have, I suppose, heard of the philosophical  
“dispute lately held between his Grace of  
“M——, and Lord Liswold? The latter’s  
“chaplain was called upon to decide which  
“was right, and he very wisely gave his verdict in favor of the Duke; who, as a mark of  
“gratitude



"gratitude, next morning sent him a presentation to a living of eight hundred a year."

"Really?" cried her ladyship, "well, it was undoubtedly a very favorable dispute for *him*, and I am extremely glad of his success; I hope he will now fix his residence in the country; for I am certain the air of London was much against his constitution, and occasioned him quite a complication of disorders.----I prescribed for him very often but could only gain little temporary reliefs:----an evident proof to *me* that his complaints were of a very obstinate nature, as *my* prescriptions are in general attended with great *success*."

"But the *living*----the *living*, my lady," resumed the Duke, "will, I believe, be of infinitely *more* service; his indisposition sprang entirely from the difficulty he found in providing for his family. Parsons act very ridiculous in marrying before they have got a good benefice. Harris was an instance of the folly of it.----He was chaplain to Lord Raysby, and tutor to his son; he married very young, and, when he had fourteen children,

“dren, he found an hundred and fifty pounds  
“a year insufficient for their support ; so he  
“got into debt, and at last died in the King’s-  
“Bench Prison. His eldest daughter, after-  
“wards, married a chancery solicitor, who  
“went, when she lay in with her first child---  
“no, I beg pardon, it was her *second* ; I re-  
“member now ;---yes, yes, it was her *second*,  
“really :---he went, I say, to examine a will  
“at the commons, for a client ; and accident-  
“ally casting his eye upon one on the other  
“side of the book, he saw there the maiden  
“name of his wife ; this raised his curiosity to  
“examine it farther, and he soon saw that the  
“testator was her godfather, Mr. Martin, who  
“had put her name down for a legacy of two  
“thousand pounds, which she had never heard  
“of, tho’ the old man had been dead near ten  
“years. Martin had been a wholesale grocer,  
“and died very rich, after being twice Lord  
“Mayor of London ; but his wife was not  
“like the present city dames, she was very no-  
“table ; made all her pies and puddings her-  
“self ; for tho’ indeed her husband was rich,  
“*she* was descended from *nobody*. Her father  
“was

“ was a butcher, and her mother the daughter  
“ of an innkeeper in Smithfield, who having  
“ money enough at command, used to lend it  
“ upon good mortgages, by which means he  
“ got some fine estates into his possession,  
“ which his grandson, Doctor Jackson, now  
“ enjoys. That beautiful spot of his, in Sur-  
“ ry, came to him in that way ; it was, for-  
“ merly the property of the late Sir Edmund  
“ Harcourt, the great florist, who almost ru-  
“ ined himself by his penchant for gardening.  
“ ----He did not value how much he paid for  
“ a curious tulip-root. His life, at last, fell a  
“ sacrifice to his favorite pursuit. I was in-  
“ formed that he died of a cold caught by  
“ standing out in the garden during the fall of  
“ a heavy shower of rain, to observe what ef-  
“ fect it had upon some of his favorite plants.”

“ No ; I beg your Grace’s pardon,”---  
cried Lady Gertrude, eagerly,---“ indeed Sir  
“ Edmund died of a dropsy:----I was then  
“ down at his seat, upon a visit to Lady Har-  
“ court ; and, knowing an infallible cure for  
“ that disease, I took infinite pains to persuade  
“ him to try it, and, could I have prevailed, he

“ would undoubtedly have been alive now;  
“ but he was too obstinate, and so fell a mar-  
“ tyr to his own folly.”

“ Give me leave, my lady,” said Mrs.  
Horton, “ to ask what your remedy is, which  
“ proves so infallible in such a dangerous dis-  
“ temper ?”

“ It is only the easiest, simplest remedy  
“ in nature, madam,” returned she, “ nothing  
“ more than *swallowing a live frog* every  
“ morning, fasting.”

Not one of us could contain our laughter  
at her very singular and curious prescription;  
but she was too full of her own consequence to  
be at all disconcerted by it, and only said,

“ I see you are all prejudiced against my  
“ mode of treating that complaint; but, upon  
“ my honor, it is the very best thing in the  
“ world.”

“ It may be so, madam,” rejoined the  
Duke, “ I ’ll not attempt to dispute with you  
“ on the subject, but really-----”

“ Well, I vow and protest,” interrupted  
Lady Gertrude, “ you lords of the creation  
“ are a most intolerably obstinate set of mor-  
“ tals;



“tals; you would rather sacrifice your lives  
“than that pride which you feel in your fan-  
“cied superiority of mental endowments.  
“Your grace is as strong an instance of this  
“as any I have ever met with; you have been  
“several years past under the care of Doctor  
“L——, for a rheumatic complaint, and are  
“not yet perfectly cured of it; but you still  
“persevere in abiding by his directions, mere-  
“ly because you have an opinion that only  
“*men* are capable of attaining to any degree of  
“perfection in medical skill or judgment; yet,  
“I dare say, if you would place confidence in  
“me, I could convince you of the contrary, by  
“curing you in less than six weeks, with a pro-  
“per application of a little gum-guiacum mix-  
“ed with snow-water and sal -----”

“I would by no means,”---interrupted  
his grace, with quickness,---“give your lady-  
“ship the trouble of prescribing for me, as I  
“am, at present, totally free from *all* com-  
“plaints; and, if I were not, I acknowledge  
“myself too partial to Dr. L——, to try any  
“thing that he does not recommend. Doctor  
“L—— is a great man, my lady, a very great  
“man

“ man in his practice ; he has had a fine edu-  
“ cation and is nobly descended.----I knew all  
“ his family well ; they were not *rich* I confess,  
“ and that obliged the younger sons to take  
“ up different professions. A brother of the  
“ Doctor’s is now in the army, but I fear he is  
“ not likely ever to rise very high, for want of  
“ powerful friends : without those, or money,  
“ few, I think, gain preferment till they arrive at  
“ old age. Colonel Hogard, notwithstanding  
“ his extraordinary bravery in several cam-  
“ paigns, lived till he was turned of fifty be-  
“ fore he rose higher than to the command of  
“ a company.”

Lady Gertrude now rising to depart, I attended her to the carriage ; as soon as we had quitted the apartment, she exclaimed,

“ Lord bless me, Mr. Fitzmaurice ! what  
“ a tiresome old man the Duke is ! I declare  
“ I hate to sit in his company ; he talks *me* to  
“ death ; I am quite exhausted now with the  
“ fatigue of hearing him.----I verily believe  
“ he thinks himself wiser than all the rest of  
“ the world, for he is as positive as he is loqua-  
“ cious, and you know he engrossed almost the  
“ whole

“ whole conversation ; he scarce gave opportunity to any one else to put in a word. I am really glad Sir Edward Melworth did not happen to be at home ; the Duke would quite overpower his spirits, he made *me* ready to faint two or three times.”

After seeing her ladyship drive off, I returned to the room where I had left his Grace, and had no sooner entered than he cried out,

“ Well, Fitzmaurice ! you have got rid I see of that antiquated piece of virginity, Lady Gertrude ; and I ’ll answer for it, are not a little pleased !-----What an everlasting tongue she has ! it is no wonder she has lived single thro’ all her best days, for none but a deaf and dumb man would think of marrying such a woman.----If she was not obliged to pause sometimes to recover her breath, there would be no possibility of taking any share in the conversation.”

I could not help being diverted to find they each blamed in the other what each was equally guilty of. I have no room for further remarks, therefore must subscribe myself, yours,

AUGUSTUS FITZMAURICE.

LETTER

## LETTER LI.

*Miss Melworth to Miss Bertills.*  
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CHATEAU DE RIVIERES.

WE are got back to this place some weeks sooner than the time fixed on for that purpose.---Our hasty return was occasioned by the unexpected arrival of the Marquess de Riviere's eldest son, who dispatched a courier to inform his parents, whose eagerness to embrace him would admit of no delay. I think I foresee that this will be a means of our returning to England earlier than I imagined we should. ---I shall then have the felicity of again beholding my Rhoda, the friend of my earliest days. Mr Fitzmaurice does all in his power to accelerate that period, for reasons to which I presume you are no stranger; as he tells me, he has informed Mr. Montgomery of his present happiness, and future prospects; and the latter, knowing the friendship that subsists between



tween you and me, ' has, of course, not withheld from you a piece of information which is generally esteemed so very important.----Indeed the circumstance itself *is* of the *utmost* importance to the parties concerned, since it forms either the happiness or misery of their whole lives.----But where the choice of the heart is approved by the judgment, there can be little reason to dread the latter consequence. Perfectly satisfied in this point, Rhoda, I scorn the paltry affectation of gravity and thoughtfulness which some deem necessary, and which I have often seen assumed even by women of sense, for a few weeks previous to their union. Yet when I say this, I do not mean to become an advocate for rash, inconsiderate marriages; on the contrary, I do most heartily concur in the idea of that elegant and fascinating writer, Doctor Watts, in a poem describing the couples who may or may not rationally expect happiness in that state, he says,

“ Not the wild herd of nymphs and swains,

“ Who *thoughtless* rush into the chains,

“ As *custom* leads the way;

“ If

“ If there be bliss without design,  
“ Ivies and oaks may grow and twine,  
“ And be as blest as they.”

I would advise every one to *think seriously* upon the subject ; but let them do this *before* their affections are so far interested as to blind their reason, or mislead their judgment.---This was the method I pursued, and I can now look forward with a delight serene and tranquil. I scruple not to confess to you, that Augustus Fitzmaurice is *dear* to my heart. I believe the attachment to be *mutual*. On my side it has been gradually progressive ;---I was not attracted by the first view. I remember, I then thought the *tout ensemble* of his *person* pleasing, and his *manners* something more than agreeable. As our intimacy increased, I discovered in him many amiable propensities. Time still kept unfolding fresh perfections to my observation. His particular attention soon shewed that on *me* depended *his happiness*.---On examining my heart, I found *mine* was little less dependent upon *him*. I set myself to peruse with scrutinizing attention the volume of his mind, again and again ; and, after the most  
mature

mature deliberation, my reason united with my affection to declare in his favor. At length he avowed to me his sentiments, and solicited a return of tenderness. I acknowledged a preference in his favor; he received the confession with gratitude; but has since presumed so far upon it as to extort from me, by repeated entreaties, a promise to give him my hand at the altar, as soon after our arrival in England as conveniency permits. Thus, you see, I am brought into the situation of *wife elect*. Yet no idea of all the matronly cares attendant upon that character, no fear that my Augustus may ever prove less amiable, or that my felicity may be less perfect or less permanent in the matrimonial than in the single state, has had sufficient power over my mind to add one line of gravity to my features. Conscious that my attachment is founded on a solid esteem for his virtues, I regard its basis as durable: I am therefore *proud* of my choice, and feel too much satisfaction in it for one uneasy apprehensive thought to find room.

To my infinite surprise, Rhoda, Mademoiselle de Cherville's heart has returned with  
ardor

ardor to its first possessor, and I am certain the Compte cannot guess it has ever wandered for a moment. The young man seems to idolize her; they are to be married very shortly; and I hope will be happy: but I confess their future happiness appears to me a very doubtful point, since the same instability of mind which she has already displayed may again become visible, and strike a poisoned dart into the felicity of both. She is really a beautiful creature, and in many respects extremely engaging. I can only wish she may henceforth possess more firmness.

Mrs. Horton unites in every affectionate desire for your happiness with

your real friend,

*HARRIET MELWORTH.*



## LETTER LII.

*Miss Bertills, to Miss Melworth.*

CHATHAM-PLACE.

YOUR sentiments and mine, Harriet, perfectly coincide; I see no reason to be ashamed of a tender attachment, when founded on virtue, and the merit of its object.---This idea made me so unreservedly communicate to you my feelings towards Charles Montgomery.----You know him; I need not therefore delineate either his person or perfections: he is now in London; and I have promised to join my fate with his on Tuesday next.----To that period I look forwards without any disagreeable apprehensions of the consequence: my principal concern arises from reflecting, that I cannot have your company on the occasion. Lady Jane Selwyn and Miss Fitzallan will both be with me; yet am I so ungrateful as to feel dissatisfied that I cannot have my Harriet.

Imme-

Immediately after the ceremony is over, we purpose setting out for Sussex, where we intend to stay about five weeks, and then go into Yorkshire. The Major and Mrs Herbert will give us their company during the time we stay at the *former* place ; but the expectation of a speedy addition to their family prevents their going with us to the *latter*, which is indeed a disappointment to me. My father will be with us at both places.-----He flatters me with a hope of his declining business, that he may be at leisure to devote more of his time to us than that would permit him to do ; but I fear this is merely flattery ; for I am sensible his commercial concerns form a large part of the pleasures of his life, and I feel less reluctance at his yielding himself up so much to them, from the consideration that he might not enjoy either health or spirits in so excellent a degree as he now does, if he were deprived of the employment and amusement which business affords him. My observation often leads me to think he manages his time much more advantageously than most other men I have ever known. Notwithstanding he carries on a  
very

very extensive business, and directs every thing respecting the conduct of it himself, yet, all his affairs are ordered with the utmost regularity; he never seems to be in a hurry. Family worship is constantly performed. The employment of the counting-house is never suffered to interfere with the performance of any duty, divine, moral, or domestic. I never yet knew my father plead business to excuse himself from an exertion of benevolence. I write you, Harriet, the genuine effusions of my heart; others, perhaps, who have less refinement, would be apt to ridicule me, or say my pen was guided by partiality; but I will give you a recent instance of the truth of what I have asserted; I could give you many, but this one will be sufficient; and the little, simple tale connected with it will operate forcibly on that tenderness and humanity which are the most distinguishing ornaments of your disposition.

I believe I have before told you that my father is a liberal benefactor to a public charity, instituted some years back for the laudable purpose of maintaining and educating a number of  
poor

poor female orphans, till fit for a state of creditable servitude, for which every proper care is taken to form them, that they may be useful in their stations, and become valuable members of society. Applications for the admission of girls are become at length so numerous, that it is impossible to receive all who stand in need of it; of course, those only are admitted whose *interest* is most powerful; thus, like many other charitable institutions, its rules are doubtless frequently infringed upon, and many children received into the house who do not come exactly under the description of those for whom it was originally designed. The concerns of the charity are all regulated by a committee, of which my father is one.---A meeting of them for the purpose of deciding upon some application for admission took place two days ago.---My father, having business of importance to transact, had no intention of joining them till awakened to it, as we sat at breakfast, by a short note from an old lady for whom we have long entertained the highest esteem. She only reminded him of the day; and, without assigning any reason, requested, as a favor, that he would not fail being present



present at the meeting of the committee. Her request determined him in a moment; he immediately transferred to his first clerk the business he had previously designed doing himself, then ordered the carriage, and went to the place.

As we sat at dinner, after his return, he said to me,

“ Rhoda, my love, I hope you have no engagement for to-morrow forenoon ?”

‘ None whatever, my dear sir,’ I replied, ‘ but if I had I would chearfully decline it for any other purpose you may wish to engage me upon.’

“ Thank you, my dear girl,” returned he, “ you will permit me then, at twelve o’clock, to introduce to you a new female acquaintance. She will not expect to be treated with any ceremonious forms.---Her situation in life is too low for her to entertain such a thought; it is, in reality, much too low for her *merit*, which is such as will compel you to esteem and love her.”

‘ Pray, sir,’ cried I, ‘ who is she? where or how did you become acquainted with her?’

“ I must beg leave,”----answered my father,

ther, with a smile,---“ to refer you to herself  
“ for a reply to your *first* question, my Rho-  
“ da ; to your *second*, I answer, that my know-  
“ ledge of her commenced in the committee-  
“ room.---It was upon *her* account that Mrs.  
“ Kelso wished me to be there. Every other  
“ point in which your curiosity desires to be  
“ gratified must rest till you see the object by  
“ whom it is excited, as I cannot enter into par-  
“ ticulars now, because I have some hours em-  
“ ployment in the counting-house ; and if I en-  
“ ter into that subject it will derange my ideas  
“ too much.-----I will only tell you, my dear,  
“ that Mrs. Brown will relate a simple story,  
“ the moral of which will inform you how to  
“ act ; but you must *ask* her for it.”

I waited with some degree of impatience  
till twelve the next day, when Mrs Brown was  
conducted into my dressing room, where I was  
sitting with Mr. Montgomery. Whether I  
was prejudiced by what my father had said in  
her favor, or whether there was any thing pe-  
culiarly inviting in her countenance, certain it  
is she captivated me at first sight ; there was in  
her appearance something however *far* surpass-  
ing

ing the vulgar. She was not *finely* dressed, but wore what was good of its kind; very *plain*, and very *clean*. Charles and I rose at her entrance, and observing she looked somewhat fatigued, I insisted on ordering some refreshment to be brought in for her. She partook of it with that easy gratitude which, while it avoids being meanly troublesome, expresses strongly the sense of an obligation. When the servant was withdrawn, she said,

“ By the direction of Mr. Bertills, mad-  
am, I have taken the liberty to wait on you  
“ to -----”

‘ My father prepared me for it yesterday,’  
interrupted I, ‘ and at the same time, Mrs.  
‘ Brown, he dropped some hints respecting  
‘ you, which have, I confess, raised my curios-  
‘ ity greatly :---I think there must be some ex-  
‘ traordinary circumstance connected with his  
‘ knowledge of you that contributes to interest  
‘ him thus warmly in your favor. He has not  
‘ yet told me for what purpose he made this  
‘ appointment; but I am convinced it was  
‘ with a view to my rendering you a service  
‘ in some way; therefore, indulge me so far as  
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‘ to gratify my curiosity by relating as nearly  
‘ as you can recollect all that passed yesterday  
‘ in the committee-room, which had any refer-  
‘ ence to yourself; I shall then be able to judge  
‘ what it becomes me to do.’

“ I obey you with pleasure, madam,”  
returned she, “ and will endeavor to be as brief  
“ as possible, lest I engross too much of your  
“ time.”

‘ I beg you will have no fear of that kind,’  
cried I, ‘ for I am now perfectly disengaged and  
‘ at leisure to attend to you.’

“ I will begin then, madam,” said she,  
“ with the relation of some previous events  
“ which concurred to bring me under the ob-  
“ servation of Mr. Bertills.

“ I had a brother a few years younger  
“ than myself; he was a journeyman carpen-  
“ ter; a very honest, sober, industrious man,  
“ and thought a very good workman. He had  
“ been married near twelve years, to a worthy,  
“ industrious young woman, when it pleased  
“ God to afflict him with severe illness, under  
“ which he lingered for the space of ten months,  
“ and then expired, leaving her a disconsolate

“ widow



“ widow with *four* young children. During  
“ the last six months of my poor brother’s life,  
“ he was quite incapable of working at his  
“ trade ; and, as it was not possible for his wife  
“ to do much more than take proper care of  
“ him and the children, they found it very  
“ difficult to procure the common necessities  
“ of life, and had nothing to spare to pay for  
“ their lodging, which made them both very  
“ unhappy. My husband then proposed to  
“ me to let them come to our house, as we had  
“ two spare rooms. I readily agreed to his  
“ proposal, and they came, after which we did  
“ all in our power to help them, but *that* was  
“ not a great deal, for my husband is only a  
“ working carpenter himself, and of late years  
“ has been so much afflicted with sickness that  
“ he has been often obliged to lie by and get  
“ nothing for some time.---But, at those times,  
“ the money I got by taking in washing ena-  
“ bled us to do tolerably for ourselves, and we  
“ were willing to spare part of our little to my  
“ brother and his family. After his death, we  
“ made his widow and children stay with us,  
“ and she tried to the utmost to maintain her-  
“ self

“ self and them; but, poor thing! she had  
“ caught the consumption of her husband, and  
“ in a few months that and her grief together  
“ carried *her* off.

“ She left four poor little girls (the eldest  
“ not more than eleven years of age), destitute  
“ of every support but what my husband and  
“ I could afford them. When she lay upon  
“ her death bed, she underwent extreme unea-  
“ siness from her solicitude for the welfare of  
“ her poor babes. The day before her death,  
“ as I was sitting by her bedside with her  
“ youngest child upon my lap, she looked wist-  
“ fully at the little creature---then at me---  
“ and bursting into tears, cried, “ Oh sister!  
“ my dear sister! I am going very fast; and  
“ alas! what is to become of my poor little  
“ innocents?” “ Do not, pray do not afflict  
“ yourself thus,’ said I, ‘ forget not that you  
“ have yourself been the care of providence---  
“ God has wonderfully provided for *you* and  
“ for *me*, from our cradle to this moment:---  
“ commit these dear little-ones to *him*, my sis-  
“ ter, leave them in his hands, with a firm depend-  
“ ence upon his promises, and he *will* preserve  
“ and provide for them.” “ I humbly trust  
“ he

“ he will,” returned she, “ but still it is very  
“ terrible to me to think they have no other  
“ means of being provided for but by going to  
“ the parish, where the care of their *bodies* will  
“ be but little attended to, and the care of their  
“ *souls* not at all. I know,” added she, “ you  
“ feel an inclination to do for them, but times  
“ are now very hard, and I fear---” I interrup-  
“ ted her by saying, “ Fear nothing ; my hus-  
“ band and I have determined not to desert  
“ them, and I here solemnly promise you in *his*  
“ name and my own, that while it pleases God  
“ to spare our lives, your children shall not go  
“ to the parish ; we will work to maintain  
“ them.” The poor thing clasped my hand in  
“ hers in token of gratitude, but her heart was  
“ too full to let her speak for some time, at  
“ length she said, “ You have now, my dear  
“ sister, set my mind at rest----I shall die in  
“ peace. I know I may depend upon your  
“ word.---May God reward you and your hus-  
“ band, for the care and tenderness you have  
“ already shewn to us all ! I shall soon cease  
“ to trouble you farther.” After this conversa-  
“ tion, madam,” continued Mrs. Brown, “ she  
“ remained

“ remained perfectly composed, and died very  
“ easy. As soon as she was buried, my hus-  
“ band and I consulted together about doing  
“ for the children. We had only a son and  
“ two daughters of our own; they were all  
“ grown up, and two of them at service in very  
“ good places; and to make it easier to us we  
“ agreed to let our youngest daughter go out  
“ to place, which she did in a short time; and  
“ we managed very tolerably for the space of  
“ six months, when my husband had the mis-  
“ fortune to break his leg by a fall occasioned  
“ by the giving way of a scaffolding he was at  
“ work upon. T’is laid him up again for a  
“ long time, and we then found some difficul-  
“ ty to get necessaries. I began to wish the  
“ children too to have a little better learning  
“ than I could give them, for attending my  
“ husband and a nurse child, and looking after  
“ my laundry took up all my time, that I had  
“ no leisure to teach them any thing. The lady  
“ whose child I had to nurse felt for me, and  
“ proposed attempting to get the second girl,  
“ near eight years old, into the orphan-house.  
“ I was very desirous of it, and the lady was  
“ extreme-



“ extremely active in the affair, and tho’ she  
“ found it a much harder matter to accomplish  
“ than she had supposed, yet she persevered till  
“ she got introduced to Mrs. Kelso, who hap-  
“ pened then to have a right of presentation,  
“ and readily granted the favor ; after which, I  
“ was ordered to bring the child, and attend the  
“ committee yesterday. And I shall ever re-  
“ member with gratitude, the kindness shewn  
“ to me by all the gentlemen present, but par-  
“ ticularly by your father, madam.----In con-  
“ sequence, I suppose, of a letter Mrs. Kelso  
“ wrote and ordered me to send into the com-  
“ mittee, I was presently called into the room,  
“ when Mr. Bertills said to me,

“ Mrs. Brown, I find Mrs. Kelso interests  
“ herself warmly in your favor, in this instance ;  
“ I suppose you are well known to her ?”

“ No, sir,’ I replied, ‘ I cannot say I am ;  
“ but I hear she is a very humane lady, and the  
“ peculiarly unfortunate circumstance of these  
“ poor little neices of mine has excited her com-  
“ passion both for them and me.”

“ Then,’ said Mr. Bertills, ‘ you can un-  
“ doubtedly give a little account respecting  
“ those

“ those children, which will be worth the at-  
“ tention of this company; Mrs. Kelso, indeed,  
“ tells us so.’ Observing me rather confused,  
“ he added, ‘ Be not embarrassed, take your  
“ time, and let us hear the story in your own  
“ simple way; from *your* lips I am convinced  
“ we shall have nothing but the truth.”

“ I then, ma’am, told the gentlemen all  
“ the particulars I have just related to *you*.”

‘ Did you so, Mrs. Brown,’----cried I,  
eagerly,----‘ and pray what effect had it upon  
‘ them?’

“ Oh, madam!” she replied, “ to the hon-  
“ or of their humane kind hearts I speak it,  
“ there was not a dry eye in the room.---They  
“ all praised my conduct much more than it  
“ merited; for I had done nothing more than  
“ my duty; but they were pleased to think very  
“ highly of it, and not only received the child  
“ into the house directly, but, in conformity to  
“ a motion made by Mr. Bertills, gave me  
“ strong hopes of taking in the two youngest  
“ as soon as they come to a proper age for it.  
“ Each of them gave me a handsome present  
“ of

“ of money, and I went home very *rich* and very  
“ *happy*.”

While Mrs. Brown was talking to me, Charles rose and went towards a window, where he stood with his back to us ; but I observed him apply his handkerchief to his eyes more than once, and when she had ended he took up his hat. After making some slight apology to me for leaving the room, he turned to *her*, and taking her hand, said, with a smile,

“ Mrs. Brown, you and I must be better  
“ acquainted ; I reverence your benevolent  
“ spirit, and will learn from you the true use  
“ of riches,”

He then left us hastily, and, on opening her hand, she found he had put five guineas into it. She shewed it me with surprise, and requested me to speak her thanks to the gentleman. You may suppose, Harriet, I perfectly understood my father's meaning, in directing her to come to me ; I therefore endeavoured to fulfil his wishes ; after which, I made a memorandum of her place of abode, and promised to call upon her in a few days. I insisted on her staying to dinner, and recommended her to the

attention of Mrs. Wiers, the housekeeper.

It is unnecessary to make any comments to you upon the goodness of heart so conspicuous in the conduct of Mrs. Brown; you will be as forcibly struck with admiration at it as I was. The worthy creature furnished us with a subject for conversation the whole of yesterday evening, when my father cheerfully said, "he was determined to have no more to do with her, he had transferred that care to Montgomery and me, and in our hands he would leave her." We then agreed between us, that she shall, from henceforth, suffer no more from pecuniary distresses; but that the rest of her life shall be made easy and comfortable; to effect which, Charles proposes to place her and her family in a small farm, now vacant, upon his estate in Sussex, which being within a day's journey of London, will, of course, be most pleasing to her, as it will give her more frequent opportunities of seeing her children, who are in service. We are just going together to propose it to her.----The carriage waits for

yours, sincerely,

*RHODA BERTILLS.*

LETTER



## LETTER LIII.

*Charles Montgomery, Esq. to Sir Edward Melworth.*

CHATHAM-PLACE.

A FEW minutes are all I can, at this time, devote to the purpose of friendly communications; but that will be sufficient to inform you of my happiness, and its cause. Know then, my dear Edward, that I am just returned from church, where I have been paying my vows at the altar, and receiving, in exchange, those of my amiable, my beloved Rhoda. To add to my bliss, Mr. Bertills expresses the highest satisfaction at this event, and tells me, that the union had been concerted by my father and him while we were both children; tho' once they feared their views would be entirely frustrated by Fanny Elwood. Heaven be praised for its mercy in preserving me from such a connection!----but I have no time to dwell upon the subject, or express the  
gratitude

gratitude I feel on *that* account. We are preparing to set out for Sussex immediately, where we purpose staying a few weeks and going from thence to Fir-grove. You and the rest of your party will, I hope, speedily add to our felicity by joining us there.---In the mean time,

I remain,

your happy and very affectionate friend,

CHARLES MONTGOMERY.

P. S. My Rhoda has just entered the room;---she desires me to convey her affectionate remembrances to Miss Melworth, whom she earnestly wishes to see.

LETTER

## LETTER LIV.

*Sir Edward Melworth, to Charles Montgomery, Esq.*

CHATEAU DE RIVIERES.

YOUR welcome letter has just now reached me.----May your conjugal felicity be equal to that which I once experienced, and may its duration be more permanent! Be assured, my dear Charles, that no one upon earth participates more feelingly in your happiness than myself. I must make nearly the same apology as you have done, for a short letter; namely, preparation for a journey. We are going, in a few hours, to accompany the Comte de Rivieres and his lady, who were married last week, to a beautiful seat he has purchased near Languedoc, where we think of staying a few weeks, after which we shall begin to prepare for embarking for England, and hope to be in Yorkshire a few days after your arrival there.

My

My sister and Augustus join me in cordial congratulations to Mrs. Montgomery, who, I hope, will remember that her friend Harriet is going to be immersed in scenes of festivity and dissipation, which will deprive her of leisure for any mental employment. This must plead her apology, if she writes no more during the rest of her stay, as I really fear it will not be in her power. Fitzmaurice says, he envies you for having arrived at the summit of human bliss----matrimony, so long before him; but he will exert all his rhetorical powers upon Harriet, to persuade her to facilitate matters, that he may follow your example in a short time.

I am,

yours, with esteem and friendship,

EDWARD MELWORTH.

LETTER



## LETTER LV.

*Mrs. Montgomery, to Mrs. Herbert.*

FIR-GROVE.

My dear madam,

A SUCCESSION of visitors has ingrossed a large part of my time since my arrival here, which has deprived me of the pleasure of testifying my friendship and esteem by making an earlier enquiry after your health and that of your family. I hope and trust you got safe home, and suffered no inconvenience from the journey. I feel extremely anxious about you, and shall not be perfectly at ease till I hear you are delivered, and in a fair way to do well. May the Almighty be as merciful to you in this approaching hour of difficulty as he has been heretofore in similar instances! I have the pleasure to tell you, that our worthy friends, Mr. and Mrs. Clements, are both well; they unexpectedly did us  
the

the favor of meeting us at Ferrybridge, and came from thence with us, but talk of departing next week. Lady Jane Selwin is still with me, and I expect will continue for some weeks, as Lord and Lady Castleton do not talk of coming down to their seat for near two months. When they do come, the Duke, it seems, intends to accompany them for a short space; and Jane tells me, honestly, that his nonsense is so disgusting to her she is determined not to go home till he is gone back to London or elsewhere. I can assure you her ladyship makes herself very merry at the expence of her sister the Dutchess, who she firmly believes would now be glad to return back to the appellation of Lady Charlotte and domestic comfort, which it is not possible she can enjoy while the Duke lives : and indeed I am of her opinion ; for I think no woman of her understanding can be happy with such a companion.

---

I was obliged to break off abruptly yesterday, to receive the friend of my infant years, the dear Harriet Melworth ; who, with her whole

whole party, arrived at Melworth-hall on Tuesday evening. Her impatience to see me would not admit of delay ; she therefore persuaded her brother and Mr. Fitzmaurice to attend her hither. Their stay was obliged to be very short ; they left me early this morning, Lord and Lady Lucan having engaged to dine with them, that they may have an opportunity of paying their respects to their noble guests, the Marquess and Marchioness de Rivieres, Mr. Watson, &c. Mr. Fitzmaurice did not omit to inform Charles, that this day month is fixed for the completion of his happiness, and we are engaged to go over to the Hall, to be present at the celebration of the nuptials, A few days after that event has taken place, they are all to return hither with us, and spend a few weeks. By that time, I flatter myself, you will be up again, and in a situation to give us the agreeable addition of your company and the Major's. Apropos, to the mention of him you must permit me to congratulate you on the additional conquest you have gained over his heart. It is pretty evident, that by exercising the

the virtues of prudence and gentleness, you have, at length, wholly subdued all his wandering desires. His tender attention to you has charmed all who were witnesses of it. Mr. Montgomery was telling me to-day, that in a late conversation he had with the Major, when in Sussex, the latter expressed to him the deepest regret for his past conduct, and, at the same time, applauded *yours* very highly, attributing intirely to that the reform in his own. He knew, long ago, the amiable part you performed to the poor infant, whom its unnatural mother, Miss Elwood, so unfeelingly deserted. He wished to thank you for it, but declared himself absolutely ashamed to touch upon the subject yet ; and frankly confessed, that when nurse told him the circumstance, his eye sunk even before *her*.----He felt humbled to the dust, at the idea it gave him of your superiority in every excellence ; and at *that* moment he mentally vowed everlasting fidelity to his beloved Eliza. Charles and I both believe he will hold the vow sacred : his present conduct seems to promise it ; and then your merit, my  
dear



dear friend, will be rewarded as it deserves.  
Let me hear from you soon. Adieu.

Yours affectionately,

RHODA MONTGOMERY.

LETTER LVI.

*Mrs. Herbert, to Mrs. Montgomery.*

ADELPHI.

I THANK you, my dear, for the warm zeal you manifest for my happiness; I will heighten *yours* by adding, that my dear Major's conduct is such as confirms me in the idea of his heart being now intirely my own. A week ago he took an opportunity to converse with me upon the subject you mention. He then condemned his former errors in the strongest terms, and spoke with energy and feeling on the dreadful consequences attendant upon guilt.

I


I saw him affected by the discourse, therefore requested him to drop it.----He replied,

“ I will, my love, if it gives pain to *your* feelings ; but the event of this day has furnished me with an extraordinary fund for contemplation ; which not being likely to afford any pleasure to my mind, I wished to avoid it by conversing upon the matter with you.”

‘ Do not mistake me, Herbert,’ cried I, ‘ I was not afraid of you giving *me* pain ; my fears were only for *you* ; but if you think unbosoming yourself to me, without reserve, will, on the contrary, afford *relief* to your mind, I will be all attention.’

“ Really, Eliza,” returned he, “ my mind is too much oppressed to refuse the relief which communication usually affords, particularly where there is a prospect of meeting the return of good sense and tender sympathy. I therefore accept, with thanks, your kind permission, and shall begin by telling you, that during the criminal intercourse I held with Fanny Elwood, now Mrs. Wilkins, she frequently mentioned to me a Miss Matthews,

“ Matthews, who, at that time, lived in Lon-  
“ don, and who, she said, was her most partic-  
“ ular friend ; and so strongly attached to her,  
“ that, to use her own expression, *she could wind*  
“ *her round her finger* : tho’, at the same time,  
“ Fanny did not hesitate to ridicule what *she*  
“ termed her *folly*. This young lady, she fixed  
“ upon to be her companion during her weeks  
“ of retirement. She artfully effected it by  
“ giving her a pressing invitation to Leeds ;  
“ and, adding, that being engaged to spend a  
“ fortnight in a family within seven miles of  
“ Grantham, she would meet her at that place,  
“ and they could go forwards to Leeds together.  
“ The proposal was agreed to, and the even-  
“ ing of Miss Matthew’s arrival at Grantham  
“ was the first of my seeing her. A female  
“ servant who had been ordered to attend her  
“ till she joined Miss Elwood was then sent  
“ back and we proceeded to M——, where it  
“ became necessary to inform her of the *true*  
“ state of things.-- The effect which that infor-  
“ mation had upon her, was such as convinced  
“ me she was really virtuous, and I sincerely re-  
“ gretted that she had been drawn into the  
“ snare.



“snare. She wept bitterly, and it was long  
“before our united sophistry could appease her,  
“or gain the promise of her continuing at M---;  
“at length, however, her youthful inexperience  
“coinciding with her humane wish to preserve  
“the character of her fallen friend,---by which  
“means her return to the paths of virtue might  
“be rendered not altogether impracticable,---  
“she acquiesced; but when *I* visited, she never  
“appeared voluntarily in my presence; and  
“when her appearance was unavoidable, she  
“behaved with such refined politeness as threw  
“me at too great a distance to admit of the  
“smallest approach towards freedom with her.  
“I think it necessary, Eliza,” continued he,  
“to say thus much in defence of Miss Mat-  
“thews, lest her connection with that bad wom-  
“an should in any degree prejudice your mind  
“against her. I never saw her after that affair,  
“till this morning, when walking thro’ the  
“Mall in St. James’ Park, I observed on one  
“of the benches a venerable looking old lady,  
“sitting with an agreëable pretty young wom-  
“an, of whose countenance I thought I had  
“some knowledge, tho’ I did not at first recol-  
lect



lect who she was. Looking hard at her as I  
passed, the color rose into her cheeks, and,  
as I turned from them, I overheard the old  
lady say, in a low voice, "Do you know that  
gentleman, my dear?" to which she replied,  
"It is Major Herbert, madam." The sound  
of her voice instantly struck me; I knew it  
to be Miss Matthews; therefore turned im-  
mediately, enquired after her health, and made  
my apologies for passing her without notice.  
She answered not, but the other lady said,  
"I perceive, Major, that the sight of *you* has  
overwhelmed my niece with confusion, aris-  
ing from the recollection of the disgraceful  
circumstance which first brought her into  
your company; but it is with infinite satis-  
faction that I lay claim to your good opinion  
of her, by assuring you, her acquaintance with  
the late Miss Elwood has been totally bro-  
ken off for many months past." I interrupted  
Mrs. Fleetwood by acknowledging my con-  
viction of the merits of her niece, and my  
condemnation of my former conduct. "Ma-  
jor," resumed the good old lady, "you must  
permit me to congratulate you on the con-

quest

“quest I am informed you have gained over  
“vicious passions, and vicious habits. Had I  
“not known of this alteration in you, a cool  
“inclination of the head would have been all  
“the return I should have made to your civil-  
“ities; but, fortunately, Miss Matthews and  
“I were visiting last night at the house of a  
“friend of yours, where, hearing your name  
“mentioned, I spoke of you with the detesta-  
“tion which I then thought you merited, and  
“dignified you with the epithets of *libertine*,  
“and *seducer*. I was, however, presently con-  
“vinced I had mistaken your character. Your  
“friend, Mr. Ackroyd, entered warmly into  
“your defence, and assured me, that tho’ an  
“artful, abandoned woman had drawn you in-  
“to error, yet, you were not the votary of *vice*,  
“but, on the contrary, ever stood distinguished  
“for possessing many *virtues*; and he added,  
“that you had, for a long time past, made an  
“unexceptionable husband to one of the most  
“amiable of her sex, by whose gentle and pru-  
“dent conduct *yours* was entirely reformed.  
“In short, Major,” she continued, “I was so  
“much pleased with his account of your lady  
“and

“and you, that I requested Mr. and Mrs.  
“Ackroyd to do me the favor of an introduc-  
“tion to you both.” There is, Eliza, a cer-  
“tain *je ne sçai quoi* in Mrs. Fleetwood which  
“creates at once admiration and esteem; of  
“course, I was much pleased at finding she en-  
“tertained so good an idea of me; and I warm-  
“ly expressed the pleasure I felt at it; but that  
“pleasure was much damped by her telling me,  
“afterwards, she had been credibly informed,  
“that Mrs. Wilkins, as soon as she knew her  
“husband was to be a bankrupt, had packed  
“up all the valuables he was possessed of, and  
“eloped with them. The creditors, on miss-  
“ing them expressed dissatisfaction at the ac-  
“count he gave, and very naturally supposing  
“the poor man privy to the transaction, and  
“to his wife’s place of concealment, had him  
“committed to prison till he should deliver up  
“all, or account satisfactorily for the effects  
“that were missing.----*He* well knowing it was  
“not in his power to do either, nor even to  
“supply himself with the necessaries of life  
“while under confinement, in a fit of despair  
“rashly terminated his distress and his existence

“ at the same time. Struck with horror at this  
“ intelligence, and unable to speak, having  
“ now reached Spring-garden Gate, I silently  
“ handed the two ladies into their carriage, and  
“ we separated. Just as they drove off Colo-  
“ nel Atkins accosted me ; we turned into the  
“ park again together, and I related to him  
“ what I had just heard. “ I am amazed”  
“ cried he, “ that you never heard that tragi-  
“ cal story before ; perhaps you are ignorant  
“ also that Hampden has turned her off, and  
“ she is now reduced to the lowest possible  
“ state of infamy.”----I was so much affected  
“ by these shocking accounts, that I came im-  
“ mediately home and retired to the library to  
“ indulge my reflections.”

‘ I fear, my love, cried I, ‘ they were not  
‘ very pleasurable ones ; for it is only the re-  
‘ flection of *virtuous* actions which yields de-  
‘ light in the hour of retirement.’

“ True, my Eliza,” resumed the Major,  
“ and virtue shall henceforth be my pursuit.”

The entrance of company put a stop to  
our conversation at that time, and the next day  
I had the pleasure of observing, that my dear  
Herbert



Herbert had regained his usual cheerfulness. Early in the forenoon, came a polite note from Mrs. Fleetwood to enquire after my health, and to request permission to visit me when I was at leisure to receive her. I fixed the same afternoon; she readily complied; and we have since been often together. I am indeed quite charmed both with her and her niece. The latter is an elegant, lovely girl about two and twenty, and appears to me to have one of the sweetest dispositions in the world. Mrs. Fleetwood is pretty ancient, and of a very delicate constitution; but indisposition does not render her peevish; good nature, sense, and piety, operate upon her mind, and raise her superior to pain and weakness. I find they very seldom visit the metropolis; their constant residence is in a village a few miles on the other side of Stamford, whither they talk of returning shortly.

I am taken ill and must conclude. The critical symptoms approach, but this shall not be dispatched till all is over. I will then get the Major to enclose it in a few lines from himself.

Yours,

ELIZA HERBERT.

LETTER

## LETTER LVII.

*Major Herbert, to Charles Montgomery, Esq.*  
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ADELPHI.

Dear Charles,

**T**HE intelligence I have now the happiness to communicate is such as affords a delight beyond all my powers of expression. My amiable, my beloved Eliza, has presented me with another son, beautiful as a cherub. She was delivered about two hours ago, and both mother and child are in a fair way to do well.----*As well as can be expected*, is the answer I have heard nurse give to half a dozen messages since the happy event; so, of course, I must be right in repeating the same. In all probability, my friend, you will one day experience, upon a similar occasion, feelings similar to mine at this moment. You will then be able to account for my being too much overcome by joy and gratitude to be capable of adding

ding more than my best wishes to Mrs. Montgomery, to whom deliver the enclosed from her friend.

I am,

yours, sincerely,

FRANCIS HERBERT.

### LETTER LVIII.

*Mrs. Montgomery, to Mrs. Herbert.*

FIR-GROVE.

CHARLES and I have just received *your* letter and the *Major's*, informing us of your safety and the birth of another son. Accept our united congratulations, and be assured we rejoice in two events so pleasing to you both. May every addition to your family be a large addition to your happiness! This agreeable intelligence arrived very opportunely, since it affords some degree of compensation for the losses

ses we have sustained. Mr. and Mrs. Clements left us three days ago, and some letters from London occasioned my father to depart thither yesterday morning. He talks of returning again in a very few weeks which removes the pain I should otherwise feel at the separation. He kindly assures me, too, that he will never be long absent from us.----Conversing upon this subject, he said,

“ I look to you, my children, for the  
“ comfort of my remaining days ; your society  
“ will enliven my spirits, and help to alleviate  
“ those infirmities of nature which I must ex-  
“ pect to approach as I advance farther in  
“ years.”

We then entered into an agreement with him to spend our winters in Chatham-place ; and he will devote the greatest part of the summers to us in either of our country residences. Upon this plan you see, my dear madam, we are not likely to be much separate. The evening before his departure, this dear, this excellent parent, took my beloved Montgomery and me into the library ; where, taking a hand of each, he seated himself between us, and exclaimed, with joy,

“ What



“ What an enviable state has Almighty  
“ goodness seen fit to place me in ! my most  
“ ardent wish accomplished, and my declining  
“ years crowned with delight ! Thus situated,  
“ my beloved children, my happiness surpasses  
“ my powers of expression.----Heaven has  
“ not only given me peculiar success in my  
“ commercial concerns, but has, likewise, blessed  
“ me with a daughter, who has been hitherto  
“ to the pride of my life, the delight of my  
“ heart. To these mercies is added the indulgence  
“ of living to see that daughter placed  
“ under the protection of a man whose tender  
“ affection combined with his excellent principles,  
“ renders him, in every respect, worthy  
“ of her, and gives me the strongest assurances  
“ of her happiness. Surely, then, my gratitude  
“ to God should demonstrate itself in  
“ every action of my future life. He has an  
“ equal claim upon your gratitude, my children,  
“ and I trust you will both endeavour  
“ to testify your sense of his kindness. Suffer  
“ me” he continued, “ to use at this time the  
“ privilege of a parent in giving you my advice,  
“ and reminding you of your *most* consequential  
“ sequential

“ sequential duties.----You have entered into  
“ the most honorable of all human connec-  
“ tions, and are beginning to act your part in  
“ the great theatre of the world. The charge  
“ you have taken upon you is an *important*  
“ one; time will, in all probability, render it  
“ still more so.----A *family* should be consid-  
“ ered as a little *state*; to govern it properly  
“ requires as large a portion of discretion and  
“ policy. You must exert your wisdom, you  
“ must exert your benevolence. Gain the af-  
“ fection of your domestics, and the perform-  
“ ance of their duty will then constitute their  
“ highest pleasure; while *your* felicity will be  
“ augmented by the diligence and alacrity of  
“ their efforts to oblige. Reflect, that *servi-*  
“ *tude* changes its name to *slavery* when *fear*  
“ is the predominating passion, and the only  
“ incitement to the performance of duty.-----  
“ You are blest with affluence; let it not be a  
“ snare to draw you into indolence, but rather  
“ consider it as a loud call upon you to exer-  
“ cise industry in using it properly. Visit the  
“ abodes of sorrow; dispense your bounty, with  
“ a liberal hand, to the indigent. Consider all  
the

“ the sons and daughters of affliction as your  
“ kindred ; and let them see you, as the dele-  
“ gates of heaven, dispensing blessings around  
“ you, comforting the sick, supporting the a-  
“ ged and infirm, cloathing the naked, reward-  
“ ing honest industry, liberating the captive  
“ debtor, wiping away the tears of the orphan,  
“ and making the widow’s heart to sing for joy.  
“ These necessary offices of humanity, if prop-  
“ erly attended to, will engross a considerable  
“ part of your time ; the return of each day  
“ will provide its work ;---be diligent in per-  
“ forming it. The pleasures of reflection will  
“ sweeten the succeeding night’s repose : they  
“ will likewise smooth your pillow amidst the  
“ pangs of dissolving nature, when you are  
“ verging on eternity, and about to appear in  
“ the presence of God, to give an account of  
“ your stewardship. I am sensible you have  
“ both, hitherto, demonstrated the warmest  
“ pleasure in acts of humanity and benevo-  
“ lence ; nor do I doubt its having proceeded  
“ from a principle of love to our divine Re-  
“ deemer ; consequently, there can be but lit-  
“ tle reason to doubt, that, under the influence

“ of the same pious motive, you will still per-  
“ severe.----But I have sometimes seen that a  
“ change of condition has caused a change of  
“ conduct in young persons, for which *avarice*,  
“ under the guise of *prudence*, has furnished  
“ them with plausible apologies; such as in-  
“ creasing expences, incurred by an increase of  
“ family; supporting the dignity of their house;  
“ an attention to the future interests of their  
“ children, for whom they think it their first du-  
“ ty to accumulate wealth; &c. &c. I wish  
“ you both to guard against being actuated by  
“ any such motives,---they are *all* ill founded.  
“ I will not believe that any one ever was the  
“ poorer, in reality, for the expence incurred  
“ by a benevolent or humane action.-----  
“ There is,” continued my father, “ another  
“ very important duty which I think it neces-  
“ sary to remind you of, and upon this sub-  
“ ject, my dear Charles, I must particularly  
“ address you. You have had the advantage  
“ of a religious education, and, I trust, have  
“ experienced its vital influence.----The *con-*  
“ duct of your late father afforded you an ex-  
“ ample of practical piety which I hope you  
“ mean



“ mean to imitate. Do not forget, my son,  
“ that, as the head of a family, you are ac-  
“ countable to your maker, for the *souls* of all  
“ under your authority. Be careful that those  
“ of your household pay a due attention to the  
“ sabbath day, by a constant and regular at-  
“ tendance on the public worship of God. I  
“ fear *family* devotion is not now very much  
“ practised amongst people in polite life; but  
“ it is nevertheless a duty.----You have been  
“ accustomed to it. Fear not the laugh of the  
“ prophane for joining with your household in  
“ calling upon the Lord night and morning  
“ for his blessing, and he will bless you, and  
“ all that you have. Let me beseech you, too,  
“ not to omit secret prayer; nor to fail in earn-  
“ estly recommending the constant practice of  
“ it to those under your direction. Let some  
“ part of the scriptures be daily read in your  
“ family; and endeavour, by explanations,  
“ suited to their capacities, to draw some im-  
“ provement to your auditors from the passa-  
“ ges you read to them; for, by such means,  
“ a lasting and advantageous impression may  
“ be made upon their minds. I am convin-  
“ ced,

ced, my Rhoda will chearfully assist you in  
fulfilling every domestic duty; let not, then,  
any engagements in company detach you  
from them. I will now, my children, drop  
the subject; I know you both too well to  
apprehend my advice will be disregarded."

My beloved Charles received my father's instructions with modesty; and, with the humble gratitude of a christian, acknowledged the kindness of it, and his resolution, with divine assistance, to pursue the path he had marked out. As the first step towards it, we have been this morning examining for a proper spot to erect a school-house as there is no building vacant upon this estate, and we mean to establish a school here for a few poor children, upon the same plan as that in Sussex; but we cannot help regretting that we have not a Mrs. Brown to take the superintendence of it. That good creature will, I hope, prove a blessing to those at present intrusted to her care. If I could but find her counterpart here, I should be satisfied.

Neither Montgomery nor myself could avoid a sigh at the dreadful intelligence you gave

gave of Mrs. Wilkins and her husband. What a load of guilt has that unhappy woman drawn upon herself ! I do not wonder the Major was so much affected, since *I*, who knew neither of them, was depressed by the information ; but I have no leisure to dwell upon the subject.--- We are going to set out for Melworth-hall immediately. Lady Jane Selwyn accompanies us ; she is to officiate as bridemaids. Adieu !

In the hope that we shall see the Major and you here soon after our return,

I remain,

yours, affectionately,

RHODA MONTGOMERY.

## LETTER LIX.

*Mrs. Herbert, to Mrs. Montgomery.*  
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ADELPHI.

MY late state of confinement renders unnecessary all apologies for delaying to write till now. I shall, therefore, my dear friend, wave the subject, and give you instead, the pleasing information that I am perfectly well--- have been out twice---and, next week, the Major and I intend setting out for Fir-grove, and joining your select social party of friends, to all of whom we wish much to be introduced.---- But, my dear Rhoda, I must beg leave to take with me a stranger, one too for whose politeness I will not take upon me to be accountable. On the contrary, I fully expect he will be sometimes so rude as to cause a general disturbance to the whole company, and lay them under an absolute necessity of expressing their resentment by voting his expulsion from their presence.



presence. Yet, notwithstanding these disagreeable circumstances, humanity forbids me to leave him behind, as he depends entirely upon me for support. To be plain, you know I am not so much the woman of fashion as to transfer to another the pleasing task of fostering my children; so pray let your nursery be put in order; it will only be preparing it a few months before its time.

The subject of the following part of this letter, will, I doubt not, affect your and Mr. Montgomery's feelings; as much as it has already affected Major Herbert's and my own. The wretched Mrs. Wilkins has, at last, suffered the natural consequence of her abandoned conduct; a conduct, it seems, shockingly depraved to the last moment of her existence. The Major, a few days ago, passing thro' the city, saw her taken out of an hackney coach, and carried into the Poultry-compter, so totally unlike her former self, that if he had not heard her voice, he thinks he should not have known her.-----Her face flushed with liquor; her person emaciated by disease; and reduced almost to a skeleton.-----Her dress tawdry, ragged

ragged, and dirty. The offence with which she was charged, upon the Major's enquiry, was such as would subject her to the severest punishment of the law. Mrs. Fleetwood and Miss Matthews, on whom the Major called, in his way home, very humanely sent their servant from time to time with the means of alleviating, in some degree, the misery of her condition; but, on the third day of her confinement, a note from them informed us, that the servant was just returned from the prison with an account that Mrs. Wilkins died the night before, in a state of insensibility and intoxication too horrid to be described. Thus ended the life of that wretched woman, whose conduct procured her no one real friend while living, nor one sincere mourner to lament her loss. We often in novels, Rhoda, read of sickness and death-beds causing very sudden transitions from vice to virtue, and even to piety, but I believe that such things exist chiefly in the fancy of authors, for it is very seldom we meet with such a circumstance in *real* life.

Mrs. Fleetwood is ready to return home; and, as we are all going the same road, we  
have

have agreed to travel together as far as her house, where I am to rest for two days. As it is possible fatigue may unite with her entreaties to detain us longer, I will not fix on any particular *day* for seeing you, lest I should disappoint you; but, with the permission of providence, we shall be at the Grove before the conclusion of next week; in the mean time, believe me affectionately yours,

ELIZA HERBERT.

FINIS.







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